American Hostages

During a 5 December press conference reported by Tehran radio, Minister of State for Executive Affairs Behzad Nabavi described the U.S. reply to the Iranian Majlis terms for the release of the hostages as "neither an acceptance nor a rejection of the four conditions" but "somewhere in between." Nabavi said Iranian executive officials could "neither review nor reply to" the U.S. terms so long as they contain "ambiguities." The minister of state said Iran had asked the United States through the Algerian Government for an immediate negative or positive answer to the Majlis conditions. If the U.S. reply is "generally positive," the minster said, Iran would take steps to implement the release of the hostages. On the other hand, if the U.S. reply is "geneally negative" the hostages will be handed over to the judiciary. If the reply is "something in between" the Majlis would have to be consulted "to tell us what to do next."

Nabavi reiterated earlier statements that the Iranian Government was taking custody of the hostages, but said the "actual handing over of control has not yet completely taken place, as the process is still underway." Security problems, he said, had delayed the transfer of custody since the hostages cannot be kept in ordinary jails and "the enemy" is actively seeking their whereabouts. Referring to the treatment of the hostages, Nabavi said they were being well looked after and their student captors had learned how to prepare special food for them "suitable to their palate." The minister of state added that nothing was being done "behind the scenes" concerning the hostage negotiations and "whatever happens will be made public quite frankly."

Iran Domestic Affairs

Shiraz, Esfahan Marches--Shiraz radio reported on 6 December that following Friday prayers a march in support of the clergy was held in Shiraz during which slogans were chanted in favor of Ayatollah Beheshti. In a related report the radio said that Shiraz's Friday imam, Ayatollah Dastgheyb, said during his address that denunciation of the clergy is denunciation of Islamic ideology. The imam also called on those who had withdrawn their bank deposits to return them without fear. On the same day Tehran radio reported that in compliance with a call by the Friday imam of Esfahan, Ayatollah Taheri, a march was held in that city in support of the clergy and Imam Khomeyni. After a speech to the gathering by Hojjat ol-Eslam Khalkhali, the marchers approved a 10-point resolution which included a call on the Majlis to expel Ahmad Salamatian, an Esfahan deputy, so that "he no longer represents us" because, the resolution said, the deputy had caused "pain" to Ayatollah Khomeyni. Noting that Ahmad Salamatian is a "close friend" of President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, AFP said he had also been attacked in the Majlis for having "grieved the heart" of Ayatollah Khomeyni in a recent speech.

Khalkhali Resignation--Ayatollah Sadeq Khalkhali resigned as head of Iran's antinarcotics unit on 7 December. In a statement to the Majlis, reported by Tehran radio, Khalkhali said that since Ayatollah Khomeyni has determined "that the issue of narcotics should no longer exist," his continued supervision of the antinarcotics unit "is not suitable for a person of my position." The staff of the antinarcotics unit is to continue its work until 21 December, he went on, and is to turn over its files, confiscated property and cash to the special judicial court. Later, in an interview with KEYHAN reported by AFP, Khalkhali said he would continue his work if the imam asked him. The antinarcotics chief previously had been accused by a Tehran newspaper of sanctioning torture and terror in his operation of Tehran's prisons, while President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr had also spoken against his methods in a 19 November speech.

Khomeyni Speech--Ayatollah Khomeyni warned against unnamed dissidents who are trying to split the clergy from the people and divide the army and various armed religious groups. According to AFP, in a 6 December speech to revolution guards, Khomeyni said that

disagreements among Iranians "were playing the enemy's game," which was to divide the groups "armed for the holy war" in their struggle against Iraq. Calling for unity and faith in the revolution, Khomeyni declared that the clergy was "the first line against dictatorship" and its separation from the people "would be a victory for the superpowers."

Transit Pact With Soviet Union--According to Tehran radio, the Majlis on 7 December, using emergency procedures, approved a 16 September agreement between Iran and the Soviet Union concerning the transit of goods through the Soviet Union. AFP said the agreement also permits the Soviet Union to transport goods through Iran. On 3 December the Central Bank governor had met with the Soviet ambassador to Iran and had requested access to a transit route to Europe.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Fallahi Interview--Following a 6 December meeting with Ayatollah Khomeyni, acting Chief of Staff Gen Valiollah Fallahi said in an interview with Tehran radio that Iran had for "some time" been able "to cross over to offensive operations" against Iraq. He hoped to bring "more good news" of military successes in the near future and added that at present there was "no major problem" of cooperation and coordination among the armed forces.

The radio reported on 7 December that General Fallahi and other military commanders discussed the situation at the fronts with President Bani-Sadr at a meeting in Khuzestan.

Fakuri on Iraqi Losses--In an interview reported by Tehran radio on 6 December, Defense Minister Col Javad Fakuri said Iran would keep its military losses secret and claimed they were "very much less than the Iraqi losses," which he estimated at 210-250 air force planes. The Mirage planes due to be delivered to Iraq from France would not, he said, "have any effect on the fate of the war," even though the planes are good and Iraq has "good pilots." He said Iran had not yet put its tanks into the battle "in an effective way" and would soon be able to destroy the Iraqi Army and expel it.

Tehran's Arabic service, citing ETTELA'AT, reported that since the start of the Gulf war Iraq had lost 2,001 fighter planes, 21 helicopters, 2,546 tanks and armored personnel carriers, 661 artillery pieces and 39 ships.

Troop Requests--The Shiraz infantry headquarters, in an announcement carried by Shiraz radio, called for volunteers to fill NCO positions in its infantry division. In another announcement broadcast by the radio, the Firuzabad gendarmerie regiment ordered 18 to 21-year-olds to report for duty between 9 and 12 December.

Indian Aid Denial--In a statement carried by Tehran radio's Arabic service, the Iranian Foreign Ministry repeated an Indian Foreign Ministry denial that India has agreed to supply Iran with spare parts for its military equipment and oil from other oil-exporting countries. An earlier KUNA report said India was negotiating with the Soviet Union to purchase oil on behalf of Iran and an Iranian delegation was in India seeking spare parts for its U.S.-made equipment.

Military Situation--In the Gulf war, Tehran radio reported that Iranian helicopters raided Iraqi positions on the Mehran front and along the Ahvaz-Kuninshahr (Khorramshahr) highway, destroying various armored vehicles and causing casualties. Iranian artillery pounded Iraqi positions around Susangerd, Ahvaz and Abadan, the radio continued, while Iranian Air Force planes hit Iraqi targets near Fakkah, Al-Bakr oil terminal and Al-Faw. Meanwhile, Iraq General Command communiques carried by Baghdad radio's Voice of the Masses reported Iraqi helicopters in action against Iranian targets near Gilan-e Gharb and Abadan while Iraqi ground forces attacked Iranian positions around Sar-e Pol-e Zahab and Abadan.

Iraq

Voice of Lebanon radio reported that Iraq has resumed pumping oil from its northern oilfields through Syria to the Tripoli refinery. Earlier reports said Iraq had begun exporting oil through Turkey and Syria.

Syria

In a wide-ranging interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM reported by Damascus radio on 6 December, President Hafiz al-Asad said he had been trying for some time to get the Jordanian authorities to stop supporting "acts of murder and sabotage" in Syria but had not achieved any positive result. According to Al-Asad, Jordan failed to cooperate with Syrian requests for the extradition of Muslim Brotherhood supporters who had fled across the border and took no measures against "plotters" against Syria residing in Jordan. The Syrian president said that Jordan's role had consequently led to "the treacherous murder of hundreds of people" from all sectors of the Syrian population. Al-Asad went on to say that in the course of a meeting with King Husayn in Yugoslavia during the funeral of late President Tito, the king rejected his proposal for a Syrian-Jordanian agreement whereby both countries would have the right of pursuit of "plotters" into each others' territories. Al-Asad said that nonetheless Syria rejects "any fighting between us and the Jordanian Army" even though Syrian forces could reach "any place" in Jordan within a "few hours" if Syria chose "to ignore pan-Arab considerations." However, Syria does not want war, the president said, but aims to "put a limit to Jordan's continued involvement" in Syria's internal affairs. Al-Asad reiterated Syria's objection to Jordan's alleged insistence on "supplanting the PLO."

Referring to the Gulf war, Al-Asad criticized Iraq for starting a war "against a country which has ceased to be hostile" and pointed out that Iraq's claim that the "unjust" agreement with Iran in 1975 was the cause of the war contradicted the fact that at the time the agreement had been celebrated in Iraq as a victory. However, the president said Syria had actively dissuaded Iran from expanding the war against Arab Gulf states and following Iranian air raids against Al-'Abdali in Kuwait had made a "serious proposal" of military assistance for Kuwait in the case of aggression against that country. Al-Asad went on to deny reports that Syria had massed troops on its border with Iraq and that Syria had supplied military assistance to Iran. Referring to current proposals for unity between Syria and Libya, President al-Asad admitted that a forthcoming meeting with Libyan leader Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi had been delayed by events but said the meeting was being arranged and that the two countries were "determined to achieve unity." Asked about the internal situation in Syria, Al-Asad said that although Israel and the United States had been "able to find some agents in our country during the recent stage," it had taken only a relatively short time to strike successfully at the group and "we now consider the issue solved and our internal situation has returned to normal."

Jordan

Reaction to Al-Asad interview--The Jordanian newspaper AR-RA'Y, as reported by Amman radio on 7 December, denied the Syrian leader's accusations of Jordanian support for the Muslim Brotherhood and reiterated Jordan's commitment to the PLO as the "sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people." AR-RA'Y added, however, that Jordan would not allow Syrian security forces to work inside Jordanian territory and said Al-Asad's statement about Syria's capability to invade Jordan was "not sensible."

PLO Comment--Amman radio in a 6 December commentary said a 5 December interview on Radio Monte Carlo by Khalid al-Hasan, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Palestine National Council and Al-Fatah Central Committee member, had "taken aback" the Damascus information media as it showed the PLO has become a "captive" of Syrian pressures, in particular as a result of Syrian military pressures around the Khaldah junction in southern Beirut. The Jordanian newspaper AL-AKHBAR reported on 8 December that in an interview with

a Beirut magazine Khalid al-Hasan said the Syrian-Jordanian dispute has nothing to do with the PLO's relations with either Syria or Jordan. Al-Hasan also expressed hope that talks between Jordan and the PLO would be reactivated.

Israel

In the wake of the high court's 4 December decision upholding the deportation of the Arab mayors of Hebron and Halhul, Jerusalem radio reported that a lengthy meeting of the ministerial committee for security affairs on 5 December chaired by Prime Minister Menahem Begin concluded that the deportation order should be implemented in view of the "necessity to maintain security." Announcing the decision, Justice Minister Moshe Nisim said the timing of the mayors' deportation would be left in the hands of the area commander of Judea and Samaria. Beirut radio reported that the two mayors, Fahd al-Qawasimah and Muhammad Milhim, arrived in Lebanon on 6 December following their deportation from Israel the previous day. Attacking the decision to deport them, a PLO statement reported by the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio described the mayors as "two Palestinian heroes."

Egypt

'Ali, Mubarak Statements--MENA reported on 7 December that Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali stated to the Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH that Egypt welcomes any Arab grouping and any Arab return to Egypt, provided the initiative is taken by the Arabs because it was not Egypt that boycotted the Arabs. Reporting the statement, AFP described it as an appeal to other Arab countries to restore diplomatic relations with Cairo. 'Ali also told AS-SIYASAH that if the oil wells are attacked Egypt will honor its Arab commitment and give aid to any Arab country that asks for it. The foreign minister reiterated President as-Sadat's policy of giving the United States facilities to protect the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula but not permanent bases and described the Iraq-Iran w as surprising because it is undermining the Muslim world.

In another statement reported by MENA, 'Ali ruled out military cooperation of any kind with Israel. MENA also reported that in an interview in Washington with the Egyptian newspaper AKHBAR AL-YAWM Vice President Husni Mubarak said Egypt is not ready to tolerate any attempt to impose the Israeli view concerning strategic cooperation between Egypt and the United States. According to MENA, Mubarak was reacting to suggestions by Israel's supporters in the United States that Israel should participate in the joint U.S.-Egyptian military cooperation.

U.S. Arms Deliveries--MENA reported on 7 December that in the course of U.S.-Egyptian military talks the United States has agreed to speed up the delivery of some types of weapons to Egypt, supply some new types of weapons, including sophisticated air-to-air missiles, and accelerate training programs.

Response to Reagan Message--MENA reported that AL-AHRAM's editorial on 8 December praised U.S. President-elect Ronald Reagan's message to Israel and Egypt stating that he will retain the Camp David framework to continue peace talks in the Middle East.

Islamic Summit

KUNA reported on 6 December that sources "close to the Islamic conference to be held in Riyadh on 23 December" said that Libya, Syria, Iraq and Iran will not be attending the conference because of differences over the current war between Iraq and Iran.

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PLO'S AL-HASAN ON RELATIONS WITH SYRIA, JORDAN

JN080802 Amman AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 8 Dec 80 pp 1, 13

[Text] Beirut--Khalid al-Hasan, member of the Fatah Central Committee, the major organization of the PLO, has denied that the PLO has any relationship with the Syrian-Jordanian crisis.

In an interview with MONDAY MORNING magazine, which is published in Beirut, Al-Hasan said: The dispute has nothing to do with our relations with Syria and Jordan. We hope that no one will base his relations with us on our attitude toward this dispute.

Referring to the Amman summit assertion that the PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinian people, Al-Hasan said that this assertion clearly demonstrates that the conferees understood the PLO's absence from the summit and that they still recognize and support it.

Al-Hasan expressed the hope that talks between the PLO and Jordan would be reactivated in order to achieve better results.

Al-Hasan said that all Arab states will participate in the Arab-Islamic summit which will be held in Mecca in January. He also expressed the belief that an Arab summit will be held within this Islamic summit.

On the Iraqi-Iranian dispute Al-Hasan siad that the PLO is trying to end this dispute quickly, to save resources for the Israeli-Arab conflict and to prevent the distraction of world public opinion from the Palestine question.

OAPEC PREPARES AGENDA FOR 7 DEC KUWAIT MEETING

LD061506 Kuwait KUNA in English 1107 GMT 6 Dec 80

[Text] Kuwait, 6 Dec (KUNA)--The executive office of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) began its meetings here Saturday to prepare the agenda for the organization's ministerial council scheduled to meet here Monday.

Sources at the executive office said that the agenda will include a review of the progress achieved on the subject of establishing an Arab engineering company for hydrocarbons. The council had previously approved the project in its Algeria meeting last June.

The agenda will further include reviewing preparations for the convening of the second Arab energy conference scheduled in Qatar by March 1981.

The ministerial council will also discuss the 1981 budget for both the organization and the Arab oil training institute with headquarters in Baghdad. It will look into the appointment of judges to OAPEC's judicial body which is the fourth in the organization's authoritative bodies.

The other three are the ministerial council, the general secretariat and the executive office.

The executive office meetings ending Sunday will be headed by the United Arab Emirates representative Nasser al-Sharhan.

Kuwait is represented by under secretary at the Oil Ministry Muhammad Khalid al-Adsani. OAPEC's secretary general Dr Ali Atiqah attends meetings. [as received]

SAUDI ARABIA

PRINCE'S VISITS TO DAMASCUS, AMMAN 'SUCCESSFUL'

GF071939 Riyadh Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Dec 80

[Text] Defense and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has said that the visit by Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and national guard commander, to both Damascus and Amman was successful. In a statement yesterday Prince Sultan said that Saudi policy is always directed toward the service of Arabism and Islam.

Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz said that the military service system is being closely studied because it concerns the citizen from both the military and development aspects.

Referring to the establishment of an organization for military industrialization, the defense and aviation minister said: Studies are underway to set up this organization.

WAY PAVED FOR SYRIAN-IRAQI RECONCILIATION

JN081041 Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 6 Dec p 15

[Text] Informed Arab sources say that Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister in Saudi Arabia, has paved the way in Damascus for a Syrian-Iraqi reconciliation to occur during the Islamic summit conference in Mecca [on or about 24 January 1980].

IRAQI AMBASSADOR HOLDS JIDDA PRESS CONFERENCE

LD072358 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2230 GMT 7 Dec 80

[Text] The Iraqi ambassador to the kingdom, Mr Shafiq Hammud ad-Daraji, has expressed the hope that the conflict between Iraq and Iran will end in the near future. His country, he added, has no ambitions in Iran. All that Iraq wants is to regain its waters and territory which have been usurped and also to lay down the foundations of new relations with Iran.

At a press conference he held yesterday evening in Jidda, Mr ad-Daraji stressed that Iraq's attitude to mediations for ending the conflict was a positive and flexible attitude and that his country had left the door open for such mediations so as to avoid much harm to both countries and to emphasize the fact that the two countries will continue to be neighbors. It is in their interest that problems are resolved. Iraq had observed a cease-fire unilaterally. The Iraqi ambassador added that mediators did not sense the acceptance of mediations by Iran, but according to statements made by them there might be a glimmer of hope. This encourages the continuation of mediations.

Regarding damage done to Iraqi economic installations the ambassador said that the damage was light, and as not reported by biased information media; it is possible to do the repairs in a short time. Mr ad-Daraji stressed that the damage to the Iraqi nuclear reactor was light. Most of the damage was done to the area where the experts reside far from the reactor and its important parts. The reactor, he said, was in a sound condition.

PDRY

PDRY, GREECE ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

LD061644 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 Dec 80 EA

[Text] Democratic Yemen and Greece have decided to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level with effect from yesterday. This was said in a joint communique signed last Friday in New York.

It declared the two countries desire to establish relations of friendship and cooperation and to exchange ambassadors. The communique stated that their relations based on respect for the principles of equality, mutual benefit and noninterference in each other's internal affairs in accordance with the principles and aims of the UN Charter.

The communique, deemed to be one of the documents of the United Nations, was signed on behalf of the Yemeni side by Brother 'Abdalilah al-Ashtal, our delegate to the United Nations; while it was signed on behalf of the Greek side by Greece's delegate to the international organization.

COOPERATION AGREEMENTS SIGNED WITH LIBYA

LD041232 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 3 Dec 80 EA

[Excerpts] A number of economic and technical cooperation agreements were signed this afternoon at the Ministry of Industry between Democratic Yemen and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. They were signed for the Democratic Yemeni side by Brother 'Abd al-Qadir, candidate member of the Central Committee and industry minister, while Dr 'Amr Ahmad al-Maqsi, secretary of the general peoples committee for light industries, signed on behalf of the Libyan side.

The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah will, under these agreements, finance a number of projects of the amended second 5-year plan in the sphere of housing and setting up a color television transmission network and developing naval installations at Aden refinery as well as financing the Wadi Hadramawt electricity network and the Aden sewers project.

YAR

PRESIDENT SALIH RETURNS HOME FROM FRG 3 DEC

JN041313 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Dec 80

[Text] Last night Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, returned to the homeland from Bonn after a private visit to the FRG during which he had a medical checkup.

He was received by Al-Qadi 'Abd al-Karim al-'Rashi, vice president and president of the People's Constituent Assembly; Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, prime minister; Dr Hasan Makki, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Al-Qadi Husayn as-Siyyaghi, deputy president of the supreme judicial council; Lt Col 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Barati, chief of staff; members of the Consultative Council; government ministers; a number of officials; army and police officers; and members of the diplomatic corps in San'a'.

CAIRO PAPERS REPORT U.S. TO SPEED ARMS DELIVERY

NC070754 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 7 Dec 80

[From the press review]

[Text] The Cairo newspapers today report on the intensive efforts and contacts which Vice President Husni Mubarak made in Washington.

The papers say: The military talks between Egypt and the United States ended in Washington yesterday and agreement was reached to speed up the delivery of some types of weapons to Egypt. Agreement was also reached on the supply of some new types of weapons to Egypt, including sophisticated air-to-air missiles, and the speeding up of the training programs on various weapons.

Vice President Mubarak had met with U.S. Defense Secretary Harold Brown, and Chief of Staff Lt Gen Abu Ghazalah also held several meetings with the U.S. defense secretary and some Pentagon experts. These meetings ended yesterday with the following important decisions:

1. The M-60 tanks, which were scheduled to be delivered by the end of 1981, will be delivered immediately.

2. The completion of the Phantom program will be speeded up by the immediate delivery of the complementary equipment.

3. Some types of weapons for the army, including TOW anti-tank missiles, will be increased.

4. Permission will be given for the supply of some special types of ammunition, particularly sophisticated air-to-air missiles and television guided bombs, and the supply of all equipment pertaining to paratroopers within 2 months.

5. Training programs will be speeded up and scheduled periods will be reduced in order to increase the number of pilots, technicians and air defense officers.

6. The present administration will recommend to the new administration that Egypt be treated as a friendly country when the U.S. military program for the next 5 years is drawn up.

7. The preparation and development of the Ra's Banas area on the Red Sea, to enable it to receive all types of aircraft, was discussed. A U.S. expert committee is expected to visit the area within a few days and prepare a report on the requirements in the area.

8. Agreement in principle was reached on the dispatch on an Egyptian military unit to the United States in the second half of next year in order to conduct joint exercises similar to these held in Egypt by U.S. and Egyptian units several weeks ago.

AL-AHRAM PRAISES REAGAN SUPPORT OF CAMP DAVID

NC080815 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2300 GMT 7 Dec 80

[Text] Cairo, 7 Dec (MENA)--In its editorial to be published tomorrow, Monday, the newspaper AL-AHRAM praises U.S. President-elect Ronald Reagan's message, which was hand-carried by U.S. Envoy Sol Linowitz to Egypt and Israel, that he will retain the Camp David framework to continue the peace talks in the Middle East.

AL-AHRAM says that Reagan's statement has several important meanings, first of which is to keep the Middle East problem in the priorities which the new administration is taking into account when it assumes office after the Carter administration. This move stems from a realization of the importance of peace and stability in the Middle East and their relationship to world peace and security.

AL-AHRAM says that the second meaning of Reagan's announcement is that the new administration comprehends the vitality of the peace efforts that have made big strides in the area as well as the need to complete the efforts without hesitation or delay. The third meaning is that the U.S. policy toward the Middle East in recent years was not a result of an individual view but of the vital U.S. interests and the commitment by the United States as a superpower toward establishing peace in the area.

'ALI ISSUES STATEMENT ON ARAB, U.S. RELATIONS

NC072057 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1950 GMT 7 Dec 80

[Text] Kuwait, 7 Dec (MENA)--Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has stressed Egypt's concern about the unity of the Arab ranks and about solving the Palestinian question as an honorable objective for which Egypt has waged four wars.

In a statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH published today, 'Ali said that Egypt welcomes any Arab grouping and any Arab return to Egypt, provided the initiative is taken by the Arabs, because it was not Egypt that boycotted the Arabs. 'Ali pointed out that President as-Sadat's latest statement was not gloating over the Arabs, as this is not his trait. Rather, the statement was an expression of the pan-Arab breakup that resulted from the leaders' decision following the Arab boycott of Egypt.

On Egypt's stand in the event that the oil wells come under attack, 'Ali said that Egypt will honor its Arab commitment and will give aid to any Arab country that asks for it.

Regarding the facilities given to the United States, 'Ali said that these facilities were given before the Afghanistan events and the Iraqi-Iranian war in keeping with an early assessement of the situation about 2 or 3 years ago. He stressed: We will not give permanent bases but facilities to protect the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula in keeping with our pan-Arab standpoint.

'Ali attributed the Syrian concentrations on the border with Jordan to two reasons, first to limit Jordan's aid to Iraq in its protracted war with Iran and second perhaps the desire to obtain financial aid from the oil countries. He noted that an overall military friction between Syria and Jordan is impossible in view of the other balances in the area.

'Ali said that the Iraqi-Iranian war is surprising because it undermines the Muslim states and peoples. Instead of war, these states should develop their countries with their funds. He said that the war will destroy all the utilities in Iran and Iraq without being ended decisively. For this reason we call for stopping it as soon as possible to the benefit of the two peoples.

In his statement to AS-SIYASAH, 'Ali voiced his fear of a Jordanian solution being imposed on the West Bank and Gaza in the absence of the Palestinians or a comprehensive solution to the Palestinian question. He said that starting other negotiations all over again threatens procrastination of the question for many years, whereas with Camp David we are now at the threshold of an agreement.

As for relations between Egypt and the United States, 'Ali stressed that the United States has fulfilled its economic and military pledges to Egypt. He said: We do not feel worried about the new U.S. administration's position. This administration will establish relations of cooperation with the countries of the area.

In his statement 'Ali pointed out that the Egyptian people feel worried about the adamant Israeli behaviour regarding Jerusalem and the occupied territory.

'Ali denied the presence of secret contacts between Egypt and the Arabs to restore relations.

'ALI DENIES COORDINATION WITH U.S., ISRAEL

NC070916 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0742 GMT 7 Dec 80

[Text] Cairo, 7 Dec (MENA)--Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has denied the reports in foreign circles about possible Egyptian-U.S.-Israeli military coordination in the Middle East. He said that military coordination of any kind among Egypt, the United States, and Israel was out of the question for many reasons.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali, explaining these reasons, said that such coordination might be seen as a military axis which could bring to the area the threat of a cold war between the two camps, and it would be a violation of our policy of nonalignment.

He added: Our bilateral relations with Israel are governed by the Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement and its appendices. These relations cover economic, cultural and tourist fields, etcetera. But there is no hint of any form of military cooperations. Kamal Hasan 'Ali emphasized that no such cooperation with Israel was possible before a comprehensive and just settlement of the Middle East problem is achieved and normal relations established between Israel and the Arab states in the region.

Answering a question about Egyptian military facilities for the United States, 'Ali said that these facilities stemmed from the similarity of the U.S. and Egyptian views regarding the importance of preserving the security and stability of this region within the framework of a just and comprehensive peace, because the United States knows that a militarily strong Egypt is the main factor in such security and stability because it is the biggest power in the area as far as population, culture and progress are concerned.

He added: Although our diplomatic relations with most Arab states are cut off, these states, especially the Gulf states, are certain that Egypt would be the one to support and protect them if their internal security faced a foreign threat. He emphasized that Egypt would not hesitate to help in repulsing any foreign aggression against any Arab state, on the basis of Egypt's commitment to the joint defense pact.

The aim of these facilities [for the United States] is to build our military forces according to the most up-to-date standards in order to be able to defend our territory as well as the security and stability of the Arab states, he said.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali denied that the recent U.S.-Egyptian exercises were in any way connected with the current Iraqi-Iranian war or the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.

He said: Our commitment to defend the Arab states does not apply to the state of war between Iraq and Iran because this is a war over borders, dating back hundreds of years. Taking sides in this war would mean more bloodshed. This is why our position since the beginning of the war has consistently been a position advocating an immediate halt to the fighting, to be followed by negotiations between the two sides, or through international arbitration, to achieve a just settlement and security and good-neighbor relations for both.

As for the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, Kamal Hasan 'Ali affirmed: We support the Afghan people's struggle for liberation for Soviet military occupation. This has firmly been our position and we will not budge from it. Toward this end we cooperate politically with the friendly Islamic states, the nonaligned movement and the United Nations.

MUBARAK REJECTS ISRAELI PARTICIPATION IN MANUEVERS

NC060955 Cairo MENA in English 0930 GMT 6 Dec 80

[Text] Cairo, 6 Dec (MENA)--Egypt rejects Israel's participation in the American-Egyptian military manoeuvres, AKHBAR AL-YAWM reported today in a dispatch from Washington quoting Vice President Husni Mubarak.

In an interview with AKHBAR AL-YAWM, the Egyptian vice president, who is currently visiting the American capital, said Egypt seeks to establish peace with Israel but it is not ready to tolerate any attempt to impose the Israeli viewpoint concerning strategic cooperation between Egypt and the United States, which is a major power-sharing joint interest with Egypt.

Mubarak has conveyed Egypt's rejection to Israel's supporters in the United States who had suggested last week that Israel should participate in the joint American-Egyptian military cooperation.

In reply to another query by the paper on the use of military bases in Sinai by American forces, Mubarak said he has asserted during his meetings with Congress committees that Egypt rejects the principle of using the Sinai bases in particular in giving military facilities to the United States or any other country. Mubarak went on to say that it was Egypt which took the initiative and offered facilities to be used in defending any Arab country. It was also Egypt which proposed the placing or storing of military equipment in the region for defence purposes, the Egyptian vice president added.

RADIO REPORTS PLO REPULSES ISRAELI ATTACK

NC062354 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2330 GMT 6 Dec 80

[Text] The PLO has announced that its coastal units stationed in southern Lebanon have repulsed a new Israeli naval attack against the Palestinian positions south of the Lebanese capital of Beirut. The Palestinian News Agency reports that the attack began when the Israeli gunboats last night [6 Dec] fired on the Palestinian positions in the town of As-Sa'diyat, some 20 km south of Beirut.

AL-AKHBAR SAYS SOVIETS BEHIND SYRIAN THREATS

LD051443 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 3 Dec 80 p 6

[Editorial: "Soviets Move Syria Toward Wider Action"]

[Excerpts] All signs indicate that Syria is preparing for a major action in the area. The escalation of Syrian concentrations on the Jordanian borders, which have exceeded 50,000 troops, go beyond threat, intimidation, and the carrying out of operations inside Jordan. Also, the steps taken by Syria to withdraw its officers from Iran and evacuate civilians from areas adjacent to the Jordanian borders indicate that Syria is planning a large-scale action in the area. On the basis of this evidence observers expect war to break out soon between Syria and Jordan so that the heart of the Middle East, all across Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Jordan, will turn into a battlefield in which war will devour the sons of those countries and spread ruin and destruction.

Obviously it is Syria which is now moving toward war against Jordan and which has specific targets in such a war.

If Syria clashes with Jordan the matter will not stop there, as in the case of the war in Iran. Rather war will spread to a large area and will develop into a more sinister situation. Israel is bound to seize the opportunity to intervene in the battle to serve its interests and expansionist objectives.

Lebanon is bound to fall in the first round, since the Palestinians will use it as a base to fight Syria; but here again Israel will find a suitable opportunity. We do not think that the 'Alawite Ba'thists are unaware of all these dangers. Rather we believe that it is a plan that has been studied and understood between them and the Soviets.

The high-level Soviet delegation did not go to Damascus to ratify the treaty of friendship and cooperation signed with Al-Asad but rather to advise the Syrians on what should be done to strengthen Russian objectives in the area, as the London DAILY TELEGRAPH has said. The Soviet delegation has been in Damascus for 3 days planning and advising the Syrians on action.

So the Soviet delegation went to Damascus not to ratify the friendship and cooperation treaty, as has been claimed, but to implement the treaty in the service of Soviet objectives and ambitions. We realize that the Syrian concentrations on the Jordanian borders are the work of and are by arrangement with the Soviets. The Soviets do not care if they push Syria to this war nor for the dangers it involves. What matters to them is to achieve their ends through implementing that treaty and to find the necessary justification for military intervention in Syria and for turning Syria into a military base for them, similar to their bases in Libya and Aden. It appears that the Soviets are exploiting the U.S. policy in action during the transition period in order to achieve this end and, therefore, are seeking to achieve it as soon as possible.

'ALI DENIES CHARGE OF INTERFERENCE IN CHAD

LD051641 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Dec 80 p 3

[ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau report: "Egypt Denies Interference in Chad"]

[Text] Cairo--Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has denied Libyan leader Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's accusation that Egypt has supplied the dissident Chad defense minister with arms. He added: "What Al-Qadhdhafi is doing is for the sake of the eastern camp. He witnesses the operations and the intensity of the conflict and then plays a destructive role by his interference in all the states around him, and even in those which are distant from him. Among his destructive actions are his occupation of the Aouzou Plateau in Chad and his military intervention.

Asked his opinion about a suitable formula for the establishment of peace in the Middle East that can replace Resolution 242, 'Ali said: "Despite the fact that the Camp David agreement was based on Resolution 242, it plugged the loophole that existed in the resolution and provided a solution to autonomy for the Palestinian inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza Strip."

LIBYAN MILITARY ACTIVITY ON EGYPT BORDER REPORTED

LD080915 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Dec 80 p 1

[Text] Cairo--Egyptian sources in Cairo have warned of what they termed active and unusual military movements by the Libyan side all along the Egyptian-Libyan border.

These movements could lead to a rise in the level of preparedness on both sides of the front. It is worth noting that Egypt declared a state of emergency in the western desert area on 14 May.

PRESIDENT CONFERS WITH CUBA'S MALMIERCA 6 DEC

JN061924 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1915 GMT 6 Dec 80

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Dec (INA)--Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the armed forces, tonight received Isidoro Malmierca, Cuban foreign relations minister.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed the nonaligned movement's efforts within the framework of its good offices to settle the Iraqi-Iranian conflict.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi and the Cuban ambassador in Baghdad.

PRESIDENT ADDRESSES CABINET MEETING ON WAR 7 DEC

GF071158 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Dec 80

[Text] President and General Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the armed forces, has asserted that our situation on the front is good and that our defense positions are impregnable and that we are inflicting further losses on the enemy forces. Speaking at a Cabinet meeting which he chaired this morning the president said: Nothing worries us--however, we shall never become conceited. We shall not belittle the adversary nor shall we try to humiliate him if he should attempt to compel us to do so, nor shall we be conceited in making our precise calculations. We shall not be conceited so as to deviate from our principles but we shall remain faithful in the service of our people.

President Saddam Husayn added: The adversary's bad intentions toward us notwithstanding, we must have confidence in ourselves and in our people. Otherwise we would not be fit for responsibility. Our confidence in our people, ourselves and in the justice of our cause is unlimited.

The president leader urged government apparatus and citizens to be more responsible in carrying out their duties and to act in a manner that will enhance our victory.

During the meeting--in which the current war with the Persian enemy was discussed--Foreign Minister Sa'dun Hammadi discussed Iraqi activities on the international level. He explained that the international community understands the justice of our cause.

The meeting was attended by Vice President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan and RCC members.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUES 5-7 DEC

Communique No 169

JN051746 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1703 GMT 5 Dec 80

[Communique No 169 issued by Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 5 December 1980]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

Our armed forces continued to deal blows to the enemy in the various operations sectors. The outcome of their activities last night and today is as follows:

I. The ground forces:

A. Known enemy losses:

1. Personnel: 35 killed.
2. Equipment: Six guns; two tanks; four vehicles, one carrying soldiers; and eight stockpiles of supplies were destroyed and burned.
3. One helicopter was shot down in the southern sector of the theater of operations.
4. Our air force helicopters today raided enemy military targets in the Gilan-e Charb area of the northern sector. Our helicopters also raided enemy targets east of Khafajiyeh [Susangerd] and the (Sheykh Budayr)-Abadan-(Umm Qayr) road, south of Ahvaz. Our helicopters inflicted the following losses on the enemy targets:

   a. Personnel: 15 killed.
   b. Equipment: Four tanks; six vehicles, two carrying hardware; four guns and three excavators. All of our helicopters returned safely to their bases.

B. Our losses:

1. Personnel: Six martyrs.
2. Equipment: One vehicle was damaged.

II. The air force: Enemy planes today raided civilian targets. Our air defenses intercepted them, downing a number of them as follows:

A. At 0733 two enemy planes--F-5's--attempted to raid As-Sulaymaniyah. Our fighters intercepted them and downed them in a dogfight.

B. At 0800 enemy planes raided (Basni) village in As-Sulaymaniyah Governorate. Our air defenses intercepted them, forcing them to flee.

Our losses as a result of the enemy raids were: one civilian martyred and another wounded.

C. At 1114 enemy planes raided the (Darband Khan) area. Our ground defenses intercepted them, downing two F-5's.

D. At 1134 enemy planes raided Qal'at Dizah in As-Sulaymaniyah Governorate. The enemy planes were forced by our ground defenses to flee.

E. At 1410 enemy planes raided the (Darband Khan) area. Our ground defenses intercepted them, downing one Phantom fighter and forcing the rest to flee. This makes the total enemy losses yesterday and today: 50 killed; 6 tanks; 10 vehicles, two of them loaded with supplies and one with soldiers; 10 guns of various calibers; 3 excavators; 8 stockpiles of supplies and 6 aircraft, 5 of them fighter planes and the 6th a helicopter.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 5 December 1980

Communique No 170

JN061737 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Dec 80

[Communique No 170 issued by Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 6 December 1980]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

With firmness and loftiness our victorious armed forces continue to meet their objectives. Following are the results of their activities last night and this morning in the various operations sectors:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Personnel: Two killed in Mehran sector, 31 killed in Sar-e Pol-e Zahab sector, 10 killed in Abadan, 3 killed in (Zyzafun) region and 10 killed in Khafajiyeh [Susangerd]. This brings the enemy losses in personnel to 56 killed.

B. Equipment:

1. Our armed forces destroyed the following enemy equipment: 3 tanks, 2 guns; 12 vehicles, three of them loaded with troops and one with ammunition; 2 armored personnel carriers; 2 ammunition stockpiles and 1 observation post.
2. The oil pipelines between Abadan and (Shaykh Budayr) were destroyed.
3. One enemy helicopter was downed in Ilam sector by our fighter planes.
4. Our air force helicopters raided the enemy military targets on Abadan-(Shaykh Budayr) road today, destroying the following: 2 tanks, 1 gun and 2 vehicles. This brings the total number of enemy losses in equipment to 5 tanks; 3 guns of various calibers; 14 vehicles, 3 of them loaded with troops and 1 with ammunition; 2 armored personnel carriers; 2 ammunition stockpiles; 1 observation post; 1 helicopter, in addition to the destruction of oil pipelines in Abadan and (Shaykh Budayr).

II. Our losses:

A. Personnel: 15 martyrs in all sectors.

B. Equipment: Damage to 1 gun, 2 vehicles and 1 personnel carrier.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 6 December 1980

Communique No 171

JN071658 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1635 GMT 7 Dec 80

[Communique No 171 issued by Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 7 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

With valor and efficiency our units continue to impose their control on their operational sectors.

Following is the outcome of our units activities last night and today:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Personnel: 4 killed and 10 wounded in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab sector, 35 killed in the Abadan area, 6 killed in the (Zayzavun) sector and 3 killed in the Khafajiyeh [Susangerd] area. This brings the enemy losses in personnel to 48 killed and 10 wounded.

B. Equipment:

1. Our armed forces destroyed and burned the following enemy equipment: Two guns; nine vehicles, four loaded with supplies and one with Khomeyni guards; one missile launcher; three supply dumps; one observation post and one fuel dump in Abadan.
2. Our armed forces hit and sunk a medium-size naval target in the head of the Arab Gulf.

II. Our losses:

A. Personnel: 10 martyred in the various sectors.

B. Equipment: One gun, one mortar and one vehicle were damaged.

C. At 1200 yesterday, 6 December 1980, enemy helicopters attacked civilian cars on the Basra-Al-Faw road. Our losses:

1. Nine civilian martyrs and four wounded.
2. Three private cars.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 7 December 1980.

ARAB STUDENTS, YOUTH LEAVE FOR FRONTLINES

JN051700 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 Dec 80

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 5 Dec (INA)--Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and commander of the People's Army, has hailed the Arab students and youth who are participating with our armed forces in the battles of liberation against the racist Persian enemy.

Addressing a group of these students and youth before they left for the front lines today, Ramadan said: The participation of the vanguards of our fighter people in the battle of honor constitutes a new page in the history of our Arab nation.

IRAQ REPORTS ARABISTAN YOUTH OPERATIONS IN IRAN

Karkheh River Ambush

JN062240 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2200 GMT 6 Dec 80

[Text] A group of the Arabistan youth recently carried out a new heroic operation against the racist Khomeyni guards near the Karkheh River, (Al-'Amyah) line, killing 10 Persian elements and wounding 20 others. The rest took to their heels.

The Arabistan youth group, consisting of 23 fighters, ambushed a Khomeyni guards force of 60 elements stationed across the Karkheh River, (Al-'Amyah) line. The group showered them with RPG-7 rockets, mortars, handgrenades and automatic machineguns. The Khomeyni guards left behind 10 bodies, including two officers, a captain and a lieutenant.

5 Dec Operation

JN072227 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 7 Dec 80

[Text] The Arabistan youth have carried out a new heroic operation against the racist Persian regime.

On 5 December a group of 16 fighters of the Arabistan youth ambushed an enemy force near the Karkheh River. The group clashed with a Persian force consisting of four vehicles and one motorcycle. The clash resulted in the burning of an enemy vehicle and its occupants. The rest fled. The group returned safely to base.

KURDISH RADIO ON RELATIONS AMONG FRONT MEMBERS

JN070924 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1530 GMT 4 Dec 80

[Text] Dear listeners, we read to you the text of the Democratic Iraqi Front cooperation charter a few days ago. The front comprises the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, the Iraqi Communist Party and the Unified Socialist Party of Kurdistan. The following is the text of the principles of cooperation between the parties cooperating within the framework of the Democratic Iraqi Front:

1. Joining the alliance is voluntary. Its aim is to coordinate and unify the efforts of the allied parties in order to achieve the agreed upon goals. Any party has the right to withdraw at any time it wishes.

2. This alliance has been established between political parties and organizations. Each party enjoys its ideological, political and educational independence. No party has the right to harm the independence of any other party.

3. This alliance does not rule out the existance of differences on certain matters among its members. However, the alliance is based on the fact that points of agreement should outweigh points of difference. Every member is committed to this and should avoid anything which impairs it.

4. Every member in the alliance has the right to honestly criticize another member. Every member has the right to refer any differences which might arise to the command of the alliance.

5. Every member has the right to establish bilateral relations with any party outside the alliance, without harming the items of this program or being against any of the members.

6. Members equal in rights form the joint command of the alliance. Every party will be represented by a delegation whose number and members are chosen by the party itself.

7. The alliance is open to any national organization, group or personality that approves its program and pledges to carry it out. The higher committee has the authority to approve applications for membership.

8. All members shall commit themselves to implementing the principles of coordination and cooperation on the level of the command and the cadres. For this reason, a higher committee will be formed comprising the parties' representatives, all having equal rights. This committee will be the highest authority, which will issue statements and instructions on behalf of the alliance. The committee will convene under the system of having an alternating chairmanship. The committees of the alliance will be formed wherever the organizations and the bases of the members exist on the levels of administrative units, quarters, establishments and social sectors.

9. The higher committee of the alliance forms the front's secretariat and will be composed of the major members of the alliance. The secretariat will be entrusted with the following up the implementation of resolutions and daily work.

10. The higher committee has the right to form permanent or temporary specialized bodies which will be attached to it and which will work under its supervision.

11. The resolutions are unanimously issued by the major members of the alliance. If representatives of small political groups or independent nationalist personalities are in the higher committee, their votes on adopting resolutions will be of a consultative nature.

12. No one except the higher committee has the right to make decisions on issues outside the scope of their activities or to adopt decisions which contradict the articles of the cooperation charter.

KURDISH LEADER ISSUES STATEMENT ON COMRADES' DEATH

JN062237 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Surani Kurdish 1530 GMT 5 Dec 80

[Text] Struggling comrade Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Iraqi Democratic Party of Kurdistan on 26 November 1980 addressed the following message to the party comrades, the peshmerga and the masses of the party;

I express to you my grief. You have once again affirmed that you are the defenders of Kurdistan and the dignity of its people. With your chaste blood, you have watered the soil, mountains and vales of Kurdistan. On the night of 18/19 November 1980, you carried out the greatest and dearest operation of sacrifice as a result of your iron will which few men possess. You upset the imagination and expectations of the bloody Ba'thist. You cut and kept under surveillance for 2 hours the greatest enemy defense line in the area of Haj 'Umran. Saddam's agents fled before your hard strikes leaving their equipment and new weapons at your feet. At a time when the enemy was hiding behind strong and warm walls, the heroes were resisting rain and snow. The Kurdistan Democratic Party and the steadfast Kurdish people are proud of you. The leaders were in the forefront of the attack. Two of our martyrs were leading officials.

Comrades, the Takriti regime imposed the war on us when it destroyed our houses and villages and turned them into heaps of ashes. They expelled our people and trampled upon our dignity and just rights. Terror and torture spread throughout Iraq. We are not fighting against the Arab brothers and will never do so. We know that our Arab brothers are just like us, suffering the oppression of the Ba'thists. We fight to rid Iraq of the Ba'thist ruling clique and we fight on behalf of Iraqi democracy and just Kurdish rights. We ask the officers and men of the Iraqi Army to stop their fighting against our brother pershmerga because we do not want bloodshed and we do not want them to be scapegoats for the Baghdad authorities.

Comrades, our struggle is earnest and just in seeking to regain the dignity and rights of our people. Our heroes have showed that they are brave and do not fear death. They are always ready to die for our supreme aims. Our comrades have sacrificed their sweet and good lives and we must be inspired by them and advance until our just aims are realized. We extend condolences to them and to their families and relatives for their tragic martydom and we pledge to continue on their path until victory is achieved with God's help.

[Signed] Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Iraqi Democratic Party of Kurdistan.

TURKISH PAPER CITED ON IRANIAN-KURDISH FIGHTING

JN071345 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 7 Dec 80

[Text] Ankara, 7 Dec (INA)--The newspaper GUNAYDIN reports here today that fierce armed clashes are still raging between Iranian Kurds and Persian soldiers in northwestern Iran. The paper adds that two Iranian soldiers sought refuge in Turkey as a result of injuries they sustained during the clashes.

The paper asserts that the Kurds who are opposing the Iranian authorities are in semi-control of the areas adjacent to the Turkish border.

The Iranian Kurds are demanding autonomous rule, but the racist Persian authorities have for the last 2 years been responding to these demands by launching military campaigns against the Kurds.

KING HUSAYN INSPECTS NORTHERN ARMY UNITS 7 DEC

JN072212 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 7 Dec 80

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn today continued his inspection visits and tour of the military units and support forces. His majesty spent the day among his brother officers and soldiers deployed in the northern region. His majesty met with the officers, NCO's and soldiers of these units in all positions. They reiterated their rallying round Husayn's wise and brave leadership, which embodies the noble pan-Arab values of Jordan in defending the soil of this dear homeland and achieving its pan-Arab objectives.

His majesty asserted that he is proud of his brave Arab army, the bearer of the great Arab revolution's message and steady defender of the Arab soil and rights.

In every position visited by King Husayn, our brave soldiers and officers asserted determination and persistence in proceeding along the sound Arab road drawn up by Husayn for this country so as to become an Arab stronghold against the covetors.

Addressing his brothers and sons of our brave soldiers, His Majesty King Husayn reiterated pan-Arab commitment and national dignity. His majesty said: In the past we faced huge challenges--this land is adorned with sites of Islamic and Arab battles and the tombs of [Prophet Muhammad's] companions.

His majesty told the soldiers: This land is our trust for the future generations so that they can live free and with honor. He added: Our great family has been strong, faithful and united and has raised its head high in facing the challenges and dangers.

His majesty said: We sincerely implore God to guide our brothers. He added: As for what we have heard of words concerning invasion of this land and a shift from the state of war to that of action [al-intiqal min halit harb ila halit fi'il], these words will backfire on those who spoke them. We assert that we are all soldiers in defense of the right, the land and the homeland as well as in defense of the rights of the future generations.

His majesty expressed his regret at the prevailing situation since this land is exposed to threats. He added that Jordan was at one point a place for the free Arabs who fought the Arabs' battles and those of our nation with honor and bravery. This land is now raising the banner and the message in every man's conscience and soul.

His Majesty King Husayn asserted: We place all our resources and energies at the service of our nation and in defense of our right. He said: Our course is clear in the service of Palestine and the sons of Palestine and of all the Arabs and in the interest of achieving a better future for our nation everywhere.

COMMENTATOR REJECTS SYRIAN STATEMENT ON 'LESSONS'

JN051544 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 5 Dec 80 p 16

[Article by PETRA-JNA political editor: "For Whom Is the Lesson?"]

[Text] Last night, Syrian Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad claimed, as he put it, that the Jordanian regime has learned the necessary lessons from what has taken place to date, either from the military move or from others.

With our souls imbued with sorrow, we ask: What lessons are these about which the information minister is talking? Is it that lesson derived from the massing of the Syrian Army to face the Jordanian Army? What are the lessons in the imagination of one of the ruling pillars in Damascus?

A lesson is usually derived from the nature of work and behavior, and work is usually assessed by its objectives, methods and results.

What have the Damascus rulers achieved in massing part of the Syrian Army to face the Jordanian Army? Have they massed it on the Golan, have they defeated Israel, and have they liberated the occupied Syrian land?

Have they massed the Syrian Army in Lebanon, and have they cordoned off Israel and liberated Palestine? Or have they dismembered Lebanon and created statelets, sects and Shi'ites equal in weakness and shabbiness? Or have they sided with Iraq, the Arab Ba'thist in its honorable struggle to liberate its territory from Persian hegemony?

We wonder what pains they haven't inflicted on the Syrian people, what crimes they haven't committed against the Syrian people and what physical and moral oppression they haven't practiced against these people? The Damascus rulers' practices and moves have now been exposed. There are overt and cover objectives. Cover objectives are the basis. In light of these practices, we can explain the behavior of the Damascus rulers and learn the appropriate lessons from them.

Their covert objectives in Lebanon have transformed Lebanon into a slaughter house flooded with blood. Their covert objectives in Iraq have stabbed it deep in the heart. These objectives made them support the Persians against the Arab Ba'th.

The covert objectives toward Jordan have made them move the Syrian Army to strike at the Jordanian people.

Also, their covert objectives toward Israel have made them give up the Golan and keep silent.

When talking about lessons, it behooves the Damascus rulers to keep silent and to learn the appropriate lessons before anybody else, because they are the last who have the right to talk about lessons--the lessons about their practices. These lessons abound in disgrace and will cover their faces with shame which they return from the Jordanian borders. It behooves the Damascus rulers to clean their faces of many things.

JORDAN TIMES SEES NO JORDAN-SYRIA BORDER CLOSURE

JN060758 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Dec 80 p 2

["Guest commentary" by AR-RA'Y economic commentator Fahd al-Fanik: "Turning the Tables"]

[Text] Israeli radio has encouraged Syria to close its border with Jordan by saying, during the 11th Arab summit conference in Amman, that the closure of the Syrian-Jordanian border would lead to the bankruptcy of companies and businessmen in Jordan.

We should make it clear that the game of the closure of borders and airspace, unlike that of the war of words, is a weapon directed against the people--not against the government or the ruling regime--in any country. Such a closure does not affect any regime except in proportion to the attention that regime pays to the interests of its own people.

Therefore, the closure of any country's border with another only means that the ruler who made the decision to close it intends to harm the interests and livelihood of the people of the other country. Or it could be that the border-closing regime believes that the government of its neighbour country is patriotic and concerned enough about the interests of its people to acquiesce to extortion out of its eagerness to protect the livelihood of its own citizens.

In other words, if the Syrian Government makes a decision to close its border and its airspace to Jordan, this would be meaningless, unless it wants to hurt the Jordanian people--or unless it actually believes that the Jordanian Government is concerned about the interests of its own people.

On the other hand, the closure of Syria's border with Jordan would not have any real effect, were it not for the presence of Israel, whose border and airspace are also closed to Jordan. This means that whoever makes the decision to close Syria's border with Jordan would be implicitly recognising that the significance of his measure is to make the closure complement Israel's closed border with Jordan.

To close the border, or even to hint at doing so, is testimony to the Jordanian Government and a gesture of animosity toward the Jordanian people, including workers, farmers and consumers with limited incomes. The one who could do such an injustice hopes that those people will be affected by the difference in freight charges, and consequently grovel to obtain relief.

It remains for us to say that the closure of the border this time, if it comes about, cannot be a weapon to be used by an Arab to stab another Arab with impunity. The closure of Syria's border or airspace to Jordan would mean that border could not be crossed, nor Jordanian airspace used, by Syrian transport vehicles; nor by Lebanese vehicles which Syria could use.

If we take into consideration the fact that the Jordanian-Iraqi border and airspace complement each other, the result would be the complete isolation of Syria, which would be cut off from the outside world, except in the direction of Turkey and the Mediterranean. This could cut off Syria from the Arab world, the Near East and the Far East.

As for the impact of the closure on Jordan, it would be negligible, because it would not affect Jordan's land or maritime transport. As for air transport, it would continue as usual, with only one hour of added flight time for each aeroplane heading westward.

The companies selling and distributing aeroplane fuel and spare parts exporters might benefit from this. But at any rate, it is a small loss which would not threaten bankruptcy.

We must note the difference between the present circumstances and those which prevailed when Syria closed its border with Jordan in 1970. In 1970 the Iraqi border and airspace were closed to Jordan, not Syria; and Jordan's imports from Europe and the United States came via Beirut, Latakia and Turkey, not Al-Aqabah, because of the closure of the Suez Canal. It was then Jordan, not Syria, which was isolated and economically and financially encircled.

Therefore, we believe that Syria will not close its border with Jordan this time around--not because its conscience or its reason tells it this would be wrong, but because it would be tantamount of the suicide of those who did it, and because it would be trivial in terms of its impact on Jordan.

SYRIA, ISRAEL COLLABORATE TO DESTROY ARMY

JN070648 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Dec 80 pp 1, 16

[Article by PETRA-JNA political editor: "Damascus Rulers or As-Sadat's Partners"]

[Text] Israel has the right to rejoice now because what it has failed to achieve by itself has been achieved, instead, by the Damascus rulers. Since its establishment, Israel has been trying with all its power to keep the Arab force weak and ineffective and to engage the Arabs with a silent or undeclared war among themselves. In order to achieve this goal, Israel put forth a two-point plan.

The first point: Israel itself would deal blows to any Arab force that may raise its head, exactly as it did in its wars with Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Iraq.

The second point: Israel would resort to the method of a preventive war. Here, Israel may hire a third party to do the job for it and to deal a blow to the Arab force.

Israel employed this plan in regard to Egypt when it succeeded in dragging Egypt out of the Arab front through the channels of the United States and the Camp David accords.

The Jordanian Army's might has developed greatly in the last 7 years, to the extent that the enemy's intelligence director, (Yahusha Saji), was forced to announce on 2 October 1980 that the Jordanian Army has now become an offensive army. This means, in Israel's language, that the time has come to deal a blow to the Jordanian Army in order to destroy its might, which constitutes a threat to Israel's safety.

So instead of having Israel directly deal the blow to the Jordanian Army, Israel succeeded--and no one knows how--in having the Damascus rulers do this task for them. This was represented in the Damascus rulers' adoption of a political decision to deal a blow to the Jordanian Army in order to destroy the Jordanian military and economic powers.

Thus, the Damascus rulers would serve Israel in two important spheres: First, in the military sphere, when the Damascus rulers manage to destroy the Syrian Army in the confrontation with the Jordanian Army, particularly since it will not be easy to break the backbone of the Jordanian Army; and second, in the political sphere, when they manage to paralyze the situation in the Middle East for many long years, especially in what is related to the Palestine question. This would be so because the destruction of the Jordanian and Syrian Armies would exhaust and, eventually, completely abort the Arab power. This simply means the killing of the strong Arab power.

This is exactly what was done by As-Sadat. Meanwhile, the Damascus rulers claim that they have massed their forces on our border to slaughter Jordan lest it joins As-Sadat.

Honestly speaking, the Syrian rulers are now exposed to us and to all Arabs. They are As-Sadat's partners. Yet politically speaking, they are even more disgusting because As-Sadat's treason has the manliness of lunatics. The Syrian rulers' treason is as despicable as those who trade in the flesh of their sons.

AR-RA'Y RESPONDS TO AL-ASAD INTERVIEW, ALLEGATIONS

JN070936 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 7 Dec 80

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline, "Why Don't They Liberate the Golan Within Hours," AR-RA'Y says: It is difficult to understand why Syrian officials are beating around the bush if they really want to withdraw their concentrations from Jordan's border.

Are they ashamed that they have involved themselves in massing their concentrations? Or are they searching for a cover which will help save face?

In an interview published in Kuwait yesterday, Al-Asad said that the massing of Syrian forces on Jordan's border was not aimed at fighting Jordan's army but at stopping so-called acts of sabotage against Syria. He also repeated the allegations against Jordan about helping Muslim Brotherhood gangs and attempting to usurp the PLO's right as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

It is strange that President al-Asad was not ashamed to blame Jordan for refusing to make this country a theater for the Syrian organs' activities on the pretext of chasing saboteurs. Al-Asad gave evidence to support his blame for Jordan for rejecting an agreement giving Jordan the right to chase saboteurs in Syrian territory.

The reply to what the Syrian president has said has repeatedly been explained. Still, there is no harm in repeating it here. We say: Syria's retreat from attacking Jordan is either a pang of conscience or the result of calculating the seriousness of the venture and its inevitable fate. We hope that this pang of conscience is sincere and will continue and that the threats made by the Syrian foreign and information ministers are just words.

Concerning the Syrian domestic situation, Jordan has no hand in that and has nobody to chase over Syrian territory because Jordan's stability and the honesty of its people are a model of cohesion, love and loyalty to the leader. Thus, Jordan will by no means allow Syrian organs or others to work on its land because Jordan has its own sanctity and men who protect its security and prevent any tampering with their land.

Now we come to the story of Jordan's usurption of the PLO's right. Here we will be satisfied with asking President al-Asad to refer to King Husayn's opening and final speeches at the Amman summit and to the summit resolutions. He will find irrefutable answers which assert our commitment to the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. We also ask Al-Asad to refer to Khalid al-Hasan's statement in which he said that Jordan's stand on the PLO has not changed.

This shows the infertile allegations and our surprise over the massing of Syrian concentrations on Jordan's border on the pretext of stopping the alleged saboteurs who don't exist in our country.

If the Syrian president permits, we would like to say that his statements on his capability of invading Jordan within hours is not sensible. We wished he had said that these concentrations would liberate the Golan within hours.

Anyhow, President al-Asad knows, as others do, that Jordan is a land which cannot be violated and that words uttered in wrong places will be ignored by us.

TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES FOR BRIEFING

Arrival 6 Dec

JN061926 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Dec 80

[Excerpt] Turkish Foreign Minister Ilter Turkmen arrived in Amman this evening on an official visit to Jordan of several days at the invitation of Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim.

During his visit, the Turkish minister will hold talks with senior Jordanian officials on current issues, foremost of which is the Middle East issue, and on means of developing bilateral relations, especially in the trade and economic fields.

Badran Meeting

JN071710 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Dec 80

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran received in his office today Turkish Foreign Minister Ilter Turkmen, who is currently visiting Jordan. Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim and the Turkish ambassador in Amman attended the meeting.

Badran and the visiting minister reviewed the situation in the region in general. Badran explained to him Jordan's firm stand on the issue of a just peace for the Middle East conflict and the principles on which a just and lasting peace can be based. These principles are manifested in Israel's total withdrawal from all the Arab territories it occupied in 1967, including Arab Jerusalem, and recognition of the Palestinian Arab people's rights, including their right to determine their own future on their soil and in their homeland.

The prime minister also explained to him Israel's violations in the occupied Arab territories and its illegitimate measures on the Judaization of Arab Jerusalem, rendering it its capital, and the establishment of settlements on Arab lands. In this regard, the prime minister expressed hope that the Turkish Government will take an Islamic stand, like the rest of the Islamic states, toward the issue of Jerusalem, which concerns the entire Islamic world and the Muslim Turkish people.

The talks also dealt with bilateral relations and ways of developing them and expanding the fields of bilateral cooperation.

MEDIA COMMENT ON PLO OFFICIAL'S SUPPORT FOR JORDAN

AD-DUSTUR 6 Dec

JN061107 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 6 Dec 80

[From the press review]

[Text] AD-DUSTUR comments on Khalid al-Hasan's statement, which dissipated doubts and refuted the allegations of those who wanted to appoint themselves trustees of the Palestinian people and the PLO.

Under the headline "A Just Testimony," the paper says: The man told the truth when he reiterated that Jordan has never reneged on its support for the Palestinian people's struggle, its recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of this people and its rejection of the Camp David accords and the self-rule plot. Jordan continues to oppose any attempt to liquidate the Palestinian issue and to remove this issue from the will of the Palestinian people and the PLO.

Despite the fact that Jordan does not need anybody's testimony or a certificate of good conduct or a clear and well-known approval of its commitment to Arab unanimity, Khalid al-Hasan's words deserve appreciation and admiration.

Al-Hasan is not a Jordanian, a Syrian or a Lebanese. He belongs to the vanguard of the Palestinian struggle and to the essence of Palestinian affiliation. He is not one of those who allowed others to bargain and outbid on their cause. He is not one of those who swims on the surface of the Palestinian struggle but one who dives into its depth and conscience.

Al-Hasan says that by choosing not to attend the Amman summit, the PLO chose the lesser of two evils at a time when the PLO was facing a serious situation in Lebanon. By this, he is revealing the truth of the pressure, terrorism and threats practiced by the ruling regime in Damascus against the PLO to prevent it from attending the Amman summit, which was the summit of Palestine.

Thus, a new chapter in the theatrical which was produced by the planners of the policy of fragmentation and the formation of axes is revealed. Those planners in Damascus wanted to drag the PLO into peripheral battles, which they continue to fabricate in the Arab arena. Thus, the target of this crisis fabricated by the Syrian regime was not only Jordan, but the PLO and the Palestine cause as well.

The PLO has not asked Jordan to recognize it as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people because it is certain of that, and it senses Jordan's stand through the joint cooperation for supporting the solidarity of our people in the occupied territories and supporting the Palestine cause in the international arena. However, the ruling regime in Damascus has granted itself the right to speak on the behalf of the PLO and the Palestinian people and has appointed itself a trustee of Palestinians and a godfather of their policy. It also started to shed false tears on the Palestinian cause and on its future, while carrying a poisoned knife to stab Jordan, the PLO and the Arab Steadfastness and Confrontation Front.

If the ruling regime in Damascus were able to scare Lebanon and the Palestinian resistance and prevent it from attending the summit of Arab unanimity in Amman, this regime will fail to scare Jordan, which is standing on the longest confrontation line. Jordan was able to unmask the conspiracy, which aimed at fragmenting the confrontation wall and cutting off the Palestinian arm, which is facing the enemy and imposing the Palestinian reality on this enemy.

The courageous voice of Khalid al-Hasan is one of millions of voices which will rise against the perjurers and the rancorous ones. It is a just word in the record of the Palestinian cause, which will remain, despite all plotters, the center of the Arab struggle and the aim of every honest person in the Arab world.

Amman Radio 6 Dec

JN062251 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 6 Dec 80

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Damascus rulers' information media, which has tried to drive a wedge into the fraternal and fateful relations between Jordan and the PLO by means of fabricating lies about an alleged Jordanian role that cancels the PLO's role, was last night taken aback to hear the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Palestine National Council [PNC] and member of the Fatah Central Committee dot the "i's" and refute the allegations blared out by the Damascus information organs on Jordan's role in the fabricated conflict with Syria.

Khalid al-Hasan has stressed that the PLO was forced to choose between the lesser of two evils with regard to its attendance of the 11th Arab summit conference, due to the presence of organizations that abide by the Syrian stand. This means that the PLO's consent to attend the Amman summit would have meant exploding the situation inside the organization itself. The other good reason cited very briefly by Khalid al-Hasan is the volatile, explosive situation in Lebanon. In other words, the organization, which has been placed between the hammer and anvil in Lebanon, has become the captive to the pressures of Syria, whose forces are stationed in Lebanon. These forces have made the PLO experience the complex of horror by threatening to withdraw from Khaldah junction in southern Beirut--a junction which began to control the PLO's stands and moves.

The PNC Foreign Relations Committee chairman stressed that those who attended the Amman summit have clearly realized this stand and expressed it in their summit resolution, which stressed the PLO's policy, considering it the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. More clearly, this means that the Amman summit took upon itself the responsibility of emphasizing the PLO's role despite the PLO's embarrassing position owing to its lose of the ability to maintain its independence as a result of the Khaldah complex, as Khalid al-Hasan explained, and as a result of the threats to liquidate the PLO by means of supporting the organizations which are affiliated to it and which serve ideologies unrelated to Palestine, the Palestinian issue or its struggling proud people.

It is true that those who attended the 11th summit fully understand the PLO's position and stand in the same manner as they understood Lebanon's position and stand. By adopting this stand, the PLO may, as Khalid al-Hasan said, have averted many damages which would not be confined to the PLO and Lebanon, but would also include more than one Arab state. Evidence of the truthfulness of what is said by Khalid al-Hasan are the forces Syria massed around the Palestinian camps in Lebanon. These forces are estimated at 12,000 fighters and were massed there 2 days before the conference's convocation.

What is also true is that paralyzing the Lebanese and Palestinian forces by circumventing them in Lebanon and through Syria's pressure on the Palestinians by its control of the Khaldah junction, the only outlet left for them to the south, does not serve the cause of Palestine and Lebanon as much as it serves Israel's aggressive ambitions to expand at the expense of southern Lebanon and as much as it weakens the PLO and the Palestinian presence in Lebanon before the eyes of the Syrian forces in Lebanon.

Damascus may need to hear the PLO's voice more than any other Arab capital and particularly at this stage in view of the wild allegations Syria is making without support or evidence. The PLO, through the statement made by the PNC Foreign Relations Committee chairman, stresses that it does not need a new affirmation from Jordan that the PLO is the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative because Jordan adhers to its firm stand of supporting the PLO's role as the Palestinian people's representative. In this regard Khalid al-Hasan said: I can say 100 percent clearly that from the Baghad summit to date, there has been nothing to indicate that there has been a change in the Jordanian stand pertaining to this subject. Jordan, he said, affirmed its rejection of the Camp David accords and the self-rule conspiracy. It adhered to this as it adhered to the Baghdad summit resolutions. He added that the United States and Europe want to see Jordan at the negotiating table. However, Jordan strongly rejects this role, particularly since the summit conference in Rabat. The difference, as Khalid al-Hasan says, is not between Jordan and the PLO, but the main difference is between the Fatah movement and the other organizations. He added: I confirm that cooperation with Jordan in the bolstering of steadfastness is proceeding well.

What Khalid al-Hasan says is not a testimony to us, but an admission of the truth and reality which refutes and exposes the Damascus rulers' false allegations.

JORDAN RECEIVES $92 MILLION FOR PALESTINE

JN071902 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Dec 80

[Text] An informed source at the Ministry of Finance in Amman today said that the ministry has received $92 million from the fraternal Iraqi Republic as payment of the obligations it undertook at the Amman summit conference along with other fraternal Arab countries to pay the sums that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah declined to pay for the support of our people in the occupied lands and to Jordan for the years 1979 and 1980. Iraq and other fraternal countries also undertook to pay the sum that the Algerian Republic declined to pay for the year 1980. The Libyan and Algerian payments were earmarked in the Baghdad summit conference resolutions.

The source added that Algiers fulfilled its obligations only for the year 1979.

SHI'ITE MINISTERS TENDER RESIGNATIONS 5 DEC

NC051800 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Dec 80

[Text] At 1700 today President Sarkis received their excellencies Ministers Mahmud 'Ammar, Dr 'Ali al-Khalil and Muhammad Yusuf Baydun [all of whom are Shi'ites]. The meeting lasted 90 minutes. Afterward, and speaking on behalf of the three ministers, Minister al-Khalil said: We have placed our resignations at the disposal of His Excellency President Ilyas Sarkis.

Fourth Resignation

NC051925 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Dec 80

[Text] At 2000 today President Ilyas Sarkis received Minister of Water and Electricity Resources Engineer Anwar as-Sabbah [a Shi'ite]. After the meeting, which lasted 30 minutes, Minister as-Sabbah said: Following this evening's developments, the Democratic Socialist Party held a meeting under speaker [of the Chamber of Deputies] Kamil al-As'ad. After deliberation it was decided that I should submit my resignation to his excellency the president. Consequently, I visited the president this evening and gave him my written resignation, thanking him for his great confidence [in me].

Resignation Letter

NC052028 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Dec 80

["Text" of 5 December letter of resignation from Minister of Water and Electricity Resources Engineer Anwar as-Sabbah to the Lebanese president and prime minister--read by announcer]

[Text] His excellency the president of the Lebanese republic, his excellency the prime minister:

Although 1 month has passed since the government was formed, certain obstacles have remained unresolved, thus preventing the government from presenting itself to the Chamber of Deputies. One of these obstacles is the so-called Shi'ite knot. The ideas that have been put forward to solve this knot are incompatible with the dignity of the Shi'ite community and do not serve the community's issues and aspirations in general and southern Lebanon in particular, be it southern Lebanon's life requirements or its national fate. Since this harms the dignity of both the regime and the government, I have found it necessary to submit my resignation from the government to preserve this dignity as well as the dignity of the Shi'ite community, which I am honored to represent. I thank Your Excellencies for your dear confidence [in me]. Please accept my great respect.

Al-Wazzan Comment

NC050034 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Dec 80

[5 December statement by Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan on resignation of four ministers--read by announcer]

[Text] All I can say in this respect is that I understand the reasons that prompted the ministers to adopt such a stand. I hope that this will push matters toward final solutions that will be satisfactory to everyone.

AL-ASAD INTERVIEWED BY KUWAITI NEWSPAPER

JN061633 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 6 Dec 80

[Interview granted by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on 2 December 1980 to Ilyas Muftuh, correspondent of the Kuwaiti paper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM, published on 6 December--read by announcer]

[Text] [Question] The first question was supposed to be on the summit conference, but during this time tension occurred on the border between Syria and Jordan. This situation preoccupied the region and the world. We have only the president to put us in the picture regarding the reasons, motives and aims pertaining to this subject.

[Answer] I think that everyone in the Arab homeland knows about Syria's constant complaint against the role played by the Jordanian regime in the sabotage incidents inside Syria during the past stage. We did our best and exerted every possible effort with the Jordanian officials at all levels, from security officers to the highest level, to deal with this subject and to put an end to the Jordanian role in the acts of murder and sabotage. However, we did not obtain any positive results. The matter was at first bewildering to us, because, as is well known, relations between Syria and Jordan were good. In our opinion, we have offered important moral and political support for the regime in Jordan for many years, at a time when many of our Arab brothers avoided political dealings with Jordan's regime for one reason or another. We hastened to seek a rapproachement with this regime to purify the atmosphere existing between Syria and Jordan. We were sincere and serious in everything we suggested to this regime as well as in all dealings.

This matter was not easy for us in Syria because it was not at first acceptable to Syria's masses in particular. We exerted intensive efforts and explained the subject in various ways and through several channels of the party and popular organizations, something which facilitated and enabled us to continue dealing with the Jordanian regime in a serious manner. We tried to develop cooperation in the various political, economic and military fields. In such an atmosphere we were puzzled to see some signs of Jordanian plotting against Syria. It was not easy for us to believe the regime as a regime and the rule as an entire rule were the quarters plotting against Syria. We attributed the matter to the presence of elements that do not desire a rapproachement and purification of the atmosphere between Syria and Jordan. Therefore, we took up the issue at all levels. I personally discussed it with King Husayn more than once and in more than one place. Nevertheless, the acts of sabotage continued with Jordanian support. This was proved by successive investigations.

We called on Jordan to undertake appropriate measures to end this situation, but nothing happened. Even King Husayn himself--who was in this very hall where we are now sitting--once asked to meet with a Syrian security official after I had asked him: If you are embarrassed by our demand to hand over the Syrians who plot against us in Jordan, tell me so and perhaps we will find another way. By telling him this, I spoke out of my belief that he is unaware of these matters, namely, that there are some who plot against us or are involved in this plotting in Jordan. We asked to meet with a security official and he received what he asked. The official answered his questions. Following this meeting, King Husayn stressed, as he stressed in his talk with me, that Syria's security is part of Jordan's security, that we must do all we can and that Jordan must not be an arena of plotting. We said: I will give instructions and directives to the officials. He used to give some of these instructions in my presence. Nevertheless, acts continued and plotting remained as it was. The dens from which plotting against Syria sprang and from which the sabotage acts were carried out in Syria remained in Jordan, in Amman and other cities. Those who wanted to receive training went as before to Jordan. Even those who wanted to go to Iraq used to go there in most cases via Jordan. Upon arrival and departure they had to go to Jordan and spend some time in specially prepared dens in Jordan. I said this to King Husayn when I met with him in Yugoslavia. I told him: Even those who want to go to Iraq to be trained pass through Jordan.

They always requested information and we always gave them what they wanted. Once they requested information, and we sent them a Jordanian who operated between Jordan and Syria. We also sent them a recorded confession by another person, but we did not send them the confessor. The result as that they came back and said that as a result of their investigation, they found that this man was cooperating with two or three others in Syria. I don't remember how many. But they knew that this was not the reason why we sent them the information.

We sent them that Jordanian and the recorded confession so they would investigate the matter to uncover the persons plotting against us on Jordanian territory, not to tell us that the Jordanian in question was linked with such and such a person in Syria. We in Syria knew this and did not need to be told about it.

I had a telephone conversation with King Husayn after the outbreak of the Iraqi-Iranian war. Once again we touched on this matter. The king requested that I send them persons who would give them information. I told him: I shall send you persons who will give you information and addresses of people who are residing in Jordan and guiding the acts of sabotage in Syria.

I sent King Husayn the head of the intelligence branch, who was personally received by him. The king called in Prime Minister Mudar Badran and an official from the Jordanian security department. They noted down the addresses of some of the plotters. We did not send them the addresses of some of the plotters. We did not send them the addresses of all the plotters. The head of the intelligence branch returned to Syria. But we have not received any results or obtained any response.

Not long before this incident, we received information about the existence of a Muslim Brotherhood gang, including three air force pilots. We detained one of the pilots. When the other two learned of the arrest, they fled to Jordan. Although this is an obvious military crime, the Jordanian regime refused to extradite them despite the contacts we held at all levels. As you see, this attitude is not understandable or justifiable, legally or nationally.

I do not want to go into the details, which are many and might need a long time to relate. But to sum up, I say that the Jordanian role has led to the treacherous murder of hundreds of people from all sectors of the Syrian population: workers, peasants, soldiers, men of religion and university professors. Such acts had been unknown to Syria in its entire history. At different periods in its modern history, Syria has been exposed to outside plots and had differences with some Arab states. Syria has also been exposed to pressure and plotting by some Arab regimes, but never in this manner. This type of plotting and sabotage is real war. It is the worst form of war. There are many evil aims behind it. Undoubtedly, those who plotted against us wanted to achieve these evil aims.

At any rate, what is the aim behind all this? We do not need to exert any great effort to know the aim. Syria is against the Camp David accords, separate solutions and As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem. Syria is also against the clear U.S.-Israeli policy in the region which, if achieved, would place the entire Arab region under Israel hegemony.

I believe all Arabs will refuse to succumb to this U.S.-Israeli policy and want to maintain their dignity, sovereignty and interests. When speaking about the Arabs, I discount all those agents who deviated from the pan-Arab course, cooperated with the Israelis and thus joined the other camp against their nation. The one really confronting the enemy and defending the Arab nation for objective reasons is Syria. If Syria succombs or condones this U.S.-Israeli policy, nobody else in the Arab world today would be in a position to really confront this policy. Therefore, the sole concern of the United States and Israel is to bring about the collapse of Syria or to weaken it to force it to compromise. Their aim is to put Syria in a position where it feels that the danger resulting from this situation is more serious than the danger resulting from an Israeli aggression.

It might be useful to recall here Brezinski said: These trends will make the Arab countries feel that their own danger is more serious than the danger of their conflict with Israel.

As a result of these acts we have realized what is being planned against us. We have realized that the United States and Israel are trying to achieve their objectives, and that the United States in particular is trying to achieve its objectives through some of its Arab friends. I addressed this issue directly in my last telephone conversation with King Husayn. I told him that the United States intends to liquidate us or to force us to yield so we will eventually negotiate and accept the Camp David accords and agree to its other schemes which, it may be, we are not even aware of yet. I also stressed to King Husayn that we will continue to reject the negotiations and confront even harder than ever before the U.S. schemes or any other conspiracy against our central cause.

It may be quite useful to mention here that I met King Husayn in Yugoslavia during the funeral of late President Tito. We had a conversation then in the presence of the king's prime minister, the late 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf. I quote here parts of my conversation with the king: What shall we tell the children of Syria whose fathers were killed? What shall we tell the women who became widows? We cannot easily understand this Jordanian role in what has taken place in Syria. The king answered: What interest do we have in this? I replied: I do not know. Yet we have scores of persons who keep telling us "we were in Jordan and we did this and that and that." What shall we tell those persons? Shall we tell them that they are liars? You are now saying "what interest do we have in this," but we possess tangible facts. I recall that I answered the king: All right. I will personally take it for granted that Jordan has no hand in this, yet in order to block the road to any further rumors, let us sign a two-article agreement. The first article will say the Jordanian authorities will have the right to pursue throughout Syria all those who may plot against Jordan. The second article will say that the Syrian authorities will have the right to pursue throughout Jordan all those who may plot against Syria. By such agreement we can put an end to any doubts, suspicions or misunderstanding and, accordingly, each of us will be able to preserve the other's sovereignty. Thus we will be dealing together as two fraternal guarantors.

Of course, this was rejected by the king. I also told him at that meeting: These incidents are annoying us in Syria. However, we are not worried because they constitute no danger to us. In light of the nature of our regime, the national apprehension of the masses, and the nature of the popular and party organizations here in Syria, we can absorb and overcome such developments. We shall liquidate the Muslim Brotherhood gang in Syria because this is a gang which has been condemned throughout history and is rejected by our masses because it is a suspicious gang. Yet, how can we deal with those who collaborated with this gang? With those who were behind the murdering of innocent people in our country? We in Syria, as I mentioned before, can endure such crises. Yet you in Jordan will not be able to endure a similar crisis. Certainly, after liquidating the Muslim Brotherhood we will talk to you.

Following this conversation and after their return from Yugoslavia, they asked for detailed information. As I explained earlier, we dispatched some persons to them but nothing has changed and no positive results have ever been achieved. Thus we found ourselves facing a sole choice which opposes the march we started some 10 years ago, the march which we will continue, namely that we should not have any other distractions that might divert our material, moral and political capabilities from concentrating on the main battle against the Zionist enemy. Yet, I believe that no state in the world can ignore any internal plotting or continued acts of sabotage, murder and assassination at a time when it is facing an enemy like the enemy we are facing in occupied Palestine.

Hence, we decided to put an end to the acts of sabotage, murder and assassination practiced by the Jordanian regime against Syrian citizens through some agents. You might immediately ask: Does this mean that you want to confront the Jordanian Army? Indeed we do not. We reject any fighting between us and the Jordanian Army. The Jordanian Army is our army. It includes officers, NCO's and soldiers who are our brothers and sons, exactly like our soldiers and officers. We do not distinguish between the Syrian and the Jordanian soldier. Do we want to attack Jordanian citizens? Who are the Jordanian citizens?

They are the same as the Syrian citizens. We do not believe that the Syrian citizens' sentiments toward this country and our stands on the scheme of the United States and Israel are better than the view and stand of the Jordanian citizen toward our stands on these schemes. We are proud of the support of the Jordanian citizen for our march, as we are proud of the support of the Syrian citizen for our march and our struggle against the Israeli plans. I do not voice hopes here, but stress the fact that we in Syria are ready to accept arbitration of national forces and personalities in Jordan. We are ready to respond to any decision taken by these forces and personalities. We say in advance that the party who will reject this decision is the Jordanian regime. We do not want to fight the Jordanian Army. If this is the goal, the fighting would have taken place. I reiterate that what we want is to put a limit to Jordan's continued involvement. Had Jordan been a foreign country, we would have taken a different stand a long time ago. We would not have hesitated to enter territories or engage armies. In our view, there is not a military problem to be reckoned with. We, all the Arabs and the Jordanian officials, as I believe, understand that we can reach any place in Jordan within few hours if we choose to ignore pan-Arab considerations. But we do not take pride in this. This is an objective and well-established fact. The pan-Arab factor limits our freedom to undertake full-scale and rapid military action. As I have said, our Jordanian soldier is exactly the same as our Syrian soldier.

We would like to take action. We will adopt the action which will limit the involvement of the Jordanian regime without a war between the fraternal Jordanian Army and the Syrian Army. Of course, I understand that this talk in itself draws questions. The answers to the questions drawn by this talk might lead us to matters of a technical nature. It might not be very worth while here to touch on such matters of a technical nature. The important thing is that the Jordanian Army is our army; the Jordanian people are our people. When we attack the Jordanian citizens, we attack the Syrian people; when we attack the Jordanian Army, we attack the Syrian Army. These are facts. We have grown up and we have been brought up with them. They are part of our personality. But we must understand how to prevent the conspirators against us from exploiting these facts in the interest of others, particularly in the interest of foreign forces.

[Question] It appears to me that by supporting sabotage and murders in Syria, Jordan aims at political action. It seems Jordan wants to weaken the Syrian stand. Based on this well-knit circle, an analysis of the massing of troops indicates that Syria sent its army to the borders in order to curb any Jordanian involvement in any political stand on the Palestinian question and in order to stop the Jordanian regime's support for the Muslim Brotherhood organization. In other words, Syria has not been able to do anything except to take political stands to prevent As-Sadat from joining the Camp David agreements because Syria is far from Egypt geographically. Syria is now afraid that Jordan might go ahead [and join the Camp David agreements] and has decided to prevent Jordan from achieving a step in this direction.

[Answer] I have not analyzed at length the objective of the acts of sabotage. I said that the acts of sabotage are aimed at completely weakening Syria or at weakening it to an extent to make it bargain. Bargaining, as we see it, is the objective, namely bargaining when Syria is weak. They expect that Syria will accede to pursuing the Camp David course.

2. [As heard] Were Syria to accede to pursuing the Camp David course, or in other words, were Syria to support the Jordanian regime in its pursuance of the Camp David course and its negotiating over the occupied Palestinian land and replacing the PLO, Syria would have one and only one choice, namely to support the Jordanian regime, or rather to push it in this direction. The Jordanian regime, however, needs not to be pushed to pursue the Camp David course. When they fail to drive Syria to this, the Jordanian regime will play its role, namely to pursue As-Sadat's course and on a road similar to that of As-Sadat.

The Jordanian regime has realized that it is out of the question to drag Syria into this course and that it is also out of the question that Syria would approve any act by the Jordanian regime to supplant the PLO, which, as we decided back in 1974, is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. That is why the Jordanian regime had to proceed with its plots against Syria and in supporting, encouraging and covering the acts of sabotage and killing. The Jordanian regime will at the same time do its best to sow Arab division and sedition and to deepen these divisions. This is bound to create an atmosphere that would enable the Jordanian regime to go to Camp David or to a similar camp. This has been confirmed by the proposals made by the Jordanian representative at the meetings of the Arab foreign ministers prior to the Amman summit. He said that Jordan must negotiate over Palestinian rights in terms of either the status of a substitute or the status of a partner to the PLO.

Although we knew that this is what the Jordanian regime has been trying to do, I say sincerely we did not expect that the Jordanian regime would propose the matter in this form and in the presence of representatives of the Arab countries. The Jordanian regime had not digested or accepted the fact that the PLO should be the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. How can the PLO be the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people at a time when others try to replace it in the negotiations over the Palestinian people. Moreover, the Jordanian representative at the meetings of the seven-sided committee categorically refused to approve a decision to confine the right of holding negotiations to the PLO. They had at last reached a middle-of-the road solution, namely that this would appear in the statement and not in the resolutions.

The Jordanian regime insists on supplanting the PLO. From this angle, this regime is interested in creating and in deepening Arab division. Also, from this angle, the Jordanian regime is interested in plotting against Syria and in continuing the plots so that Syria would not be effective in preventing the others from replacing the PLO. Our position is not based on partiality in favor of this party or that; it is based on fanatacism for the just Palestinian cause and the Palestinian rights which we can achieve in one way or another. There is no doubt that we will be more capable of realizing just rights through the real leadership of the Palestinian people rather than if others, who are not the real leaders, try to realize these rights.

I want to assert that we in Syria will not allow anyone to attack the natural rights of the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and to which the right of representing the Palestinian people and the right to negotiate over all that relates to this right should be confined.

At a time when we are working to put an end to the Jordanian regime's involvement in the acts of sabotage inside Syria, we are also working to put an end to other aspirations, the aspiratons of the Jordanian regime, in particular, to supplant the leaders of the Palestinian people. In my assessment, the two matters are linked. Stopping the acts of sabotage in Syria and standing by the Palestinian people or preventing others from attacking these rights do complement each other.

We know that had the others achieved an agreement with us to act together to cancel the PLO's role, the acts of sabotage would have ended or rather would never have taken place in Syria.

[Question] Mr President, you have received His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz within the framework of what seems to be a Saudi mediation effort in the Syrian-Jordanian dispute. Have there been any new developments or have any steps been achieved to bring about and end to this dispute?

[Answer] The Saudi initiative is an act of good intentions which attempts, as it was termed, to avoid escalation of the tension between Syria and Jordan. We highly appreciate the desire of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to preserve Arab solidarity. We also do not like seeing any rift between any two Arab countries, particularly between Syria--the main state of confrontation--and any other Arab country. Of course, we have welcomed this initiative. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will continue its efforts, and, for our part, as I have told Prince 'Abdallah, we seek to correct things and nothing else. I am sure that the brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have felt our response and cooperation. They might have been pleased with this response, which has come accordance with their concern for preserving the pan-Arab solidarity. We hope that the efforts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will achieve objectives that will finally lead to removing the reasons which have led us to the current situation.

[Question] The Amman summit conference was held on its fixed date despite the boycotting of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front's member states. What do you think of the resolutions of this summit? Would you tell the Arab citizen, through AR-RA'Y AL-'AM, what you would have said if you had attended this conference in light of the prevailing Arab atmosphere?

[Answer] We suggested postponing the convocation of the summit conference, stemming from our concern to ensure its success and, consequently, to bolster our Arab solidarity. We saw, then, that the existing relations among many of the Arab states were tense; thus, we would have gone to the Arab summit conference with a load of problems that would exceed the endurance ability of the meeting. In the middle of such an atmosphere, it would have been quite unreasonable to expect the conference to succeed. We proposed this briefly in our memo to the Arab League secretary general. We did not imagine that this proposal would turn into a battle. When we proposed postponing the conference, we were only practicing our rights as an Arab member state in the Arab League, a right that applies to any other Arab state member in the Arab League. Unfortunately, instead of a discussion of this proposal with calm and reasonable logic, clamor was heard here and there to an extent we had not expected. Member states even insisted on convening the conference without any consideration for any other opinion.

We then tried through the contacts that followed to shed more light on our opinion, in a way that would make others realize the importance and the necessity of postponing the conference in the interest of all of us. Yet some of them insisted on convening the conference on its fixed date based on positions not in favor of the pan-Arab interests. Some positions, particularly, those of the Jordanian and Iraqi regimes, stemmed from the interests of their political trends. Both the Jordanian and Iraqi regime had particular objective and wanted to gain Arab backing for their objective. Both of the two regimes tried to use the Arab summit in a way that might serve its objective.

The Jordanian regime wanted to achieve Arab backing, even if abstract, for its coming drives toward a U.S -Israeli settlement, according to which the Jordanian regime would negotiate the Palestinian people's rights, thus disavowing and bypassing the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and consequently violating the resolutions of the various Arab summit conferences--beginning with the Algiers and Rabat summits and up till now--which have all restricted the representation of the Palestinian people to the PLO.

Therefore, the Jordanian regime wanted to obtain Arab backing, even if only moral backing, for its forthcoming rush toward an American-Israeli solution so it can negotiate on the Palestinian Arab people's rights, disregard and overstep the PLO, the Palestinian people's representative, and eventually overstep the successive Arab summits' resolutions, beginning with the Algiers and Rabat conferences and until now. All these resolutions stressed that the Palestinian Arab people's representation is confined to the PLO. Therefore, the Jordanian regime found that Syria's absence from the conference would be in the interest of this trend because it fully realized that Syria would block any resolution supporting this trend. Of course, the regime wished that Syria alone would be absent and that the PLO, the other partners to the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, and Lebanon would attend. In the Jordanian regime's calculations this would have facilitated its path. We are not now concerned with details on this subject.

The Iraqi regime also wanted to obtain an Arab cover for its war against Iran, without having a serious and objective discussion of this war. If a discussion had been held and if the war had been objectively evaluated, the Arabs would have concluded that this war is against the Arabs. In its essence, we can say it is at the expense of the Arabs and not for the sake of the Arabs. This may answer the other part of your question: What would you have said if you had attended the summit conference? As for the Jordanian regime, as I said, we will say no. The side to deal with any political treatment of the Palestinian Arab people's rights is only the PLO. As for the Iraqi regime, we will elaborate our viewpoint on the war it is waging against Iran. We will ask: What are the advantages and disadvantages we can obtain from this war? Who is the first and last beneficiary of this war? This war is not a war on behalf of the Arabs, but a war on behalf of the regime in Iraq with all its background and desired aims.

We regret that the others were not adequately aware of what the Jordanian and Iraqi regimes wanted. The conference was held and attended by those who attended, but not exactly in the manner desired by the two regimes. Therefore, those two regimes did not get exactly what they had planned for. Neither did the Jordanian regime obtain an authorization resolution although it believed it had obtained some gains in this direction nor did the Iraqi regime obtain what it wanted although it also believed it had obtained some gains in this direction. The conference results did not push the march of joint Arab action forward; consequently, the conference did not achieve the aims we all desire along the path of pushing forward the Arab march as well as the confrontation capability--politically, militarily and economically. Such results were expected as long as the conference was held with those who came to attend it and not heeding those who were absent. Obviously, this was a grave avoidable mistake.

In our opinion, the negative aspects of this conference were less than those which might have resulted if the conference had been held with our entire presence and all our problems at the same time. In my opinion, the results had to be much worse. Now that the conference has been held we will continue to adhere to Arab solidarity. I think this is in the interest of every Arab. We must all work together to overcome the obstacles which prevent the attainment of further solidarity and cohesion so we can avert the negative aspects, whether those resulting from the conference or those present before the conference and still present. As for the resolutions, this is not the problem now. What is the value of any resolutions when the Arabs are absent? What is the value of any good or bad resolutions when the Arabs are dispersed and disrupted? Therefore, it is not important to know what stand one takes toward a resolution or resolutions adopted by the conference at this stage. What is of primary importance is that the Arabs should stand side by side and confront [dangers] collectively and seriously. Each of them must listen to the other with open and attentive ears. It is then that any resolution can be discussed or approved and it is then that a resolution not previously made about a certain subject or issue can be adopted.

[Question] It is said in this regard that the Amman summit conference seemed to have considered what would have been said by Syria and the steadfastness states such as the strengthening of relations with the socialist states and denunciation of U.S. policy. It seems that the summit resolutions included a reply to what would have been presented by the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front.

[Answer] To comment on what you say, I hope that some of the resolutions will be translated into action in letter and spirit. For example, they condemned U.S. policy. We hope the Jordanian regime will not go to Washington, say something else and look for a solution along with those whom the conference has condemned. Another example: They talked about the independence of the PLO. This issue is the basic point of difference between us and some of them. The independence of the PLO first and foremost necessitates that not one of them should intervene to solve the Palestinian problem on behalf of the PLO. Unfortunately some of them raised a hue and cry over the PLO's independence at a time when we all know that he himself [as heard] threatens this independence. All know that Syria has neither put itself forward--nor has it been put forward by others--as an alternative to the PLO in solving the Palestinian problem. That which is being presented and which is posing itself as an alternative is the Jordanian regime. We hope that such a question on which we decide something and then do something else will not arise.

[Question] Syria attended all the preliminary meetings for the summit including the foreign ministers' conference which preceded the summit by 2 or 3 days. Then came what seemed to have been a surprise move by Syria when it asked for a postponement. If the discrepancies pointed out by Syria were the reasons for postponement, were not they clear to Syria beforehand? Why didn't Syria put forward its objections by not attending the seven-member committee and the foreign ministers' conference? In other words, Syria asked for a postponement because Arab differences prevented the holding of a summit and necessitated a postponement although these differences had already been rife and could have prevented Syria from attending the preliminary meetings.

[Answer] In fact we proposed postponement earlier in our contacts with some of the Arab brothers. We exchanged viewpoints with them. As I have said, I did not propose the postponement as a bone of contention between us and any other Arab brothers. We proposed the idea for consideration and we exchanged viewpoints on it. At the same time, we continued our work in the committees hoping that the methods of action would be complementary and not contradictory. As you know, Yasir 'Arafat had been at the same time touring some Arab states to discuss this issue. We learned that some of them agreed to a postponement for a limited period. On the one hand we made a proposal to the Arab League and on the other hand we worked to prepare and clarify proposals and ideas to the summit. We and our Palestinian brothers made contacts to reach a joint decision on the postponement idea. We continued working on this until the final hours when the others insisted on their position, especially the Jordanian and Iraqi regimes. As I have said, others responded to them without fully realizing their aims. Naturally we could not take part in this conference as long as we believed that its results would be negative in the sense that the Arab situation would appear after the conference much worse than it had been before the conference. The proposal for postponement is a natural issue for us Arabs with regard to any conference preceded by differences.

It is well known that the Khartoum summit conference was prepared for by bilateral agreements between President 'Abd an-Nasir and King Faysal, the Baghdad summit by a meeting between Syria and Iraq, and the Cairo summit by a meeting of Syria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the PLO. Every other summit was prepared for in the presence of Arab differences. Therefore, how should we have acted at a time when the differences reached a degree never before witnessed?

[Question] Allow me to make an unrelated point. During the Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Amman, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam met with Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, the Iraqi foreign minister. The reason for the meeting and what went on are not known. This took place when the situation between Syria and Iraq was very tense. Did what happen during the meeting of the two ministers not reflect on the meeting of the Arab foreign ministers?

[Answer] As a matter of fact no substantial issues were discussed during the meeting between the foreign ministers of Syria and Iraq. They discussed some matters related to the conference and its convocation.

[Question] It was said that Syria forced the PLO not to attend the Amman summit. In this context, the talk centered on PLO's independence. What is your comment on this.

[Answer] When one ponders the Jordanian ruler's statements on the PLO's independence and then recalls what as-Sadat said about the PLO and its independence, he discovers that both have said they wanted to lift the domination over the PLO and that they wanted the PLO to have freedom of decision. This is as if they are saying that if you abandon the Palestinian people and the PLO, the PLO will kneel before the U.S.-Israeli plan. As-Sadat wants to say that had it not been for Syria, the PLO would have agreed to the Camp David plan, would have been forced into submission and would have accepted that the Palestinian people would be defeated and helpless under the occupation and under the farce of autonomy. We hear exactly the same talk now.

I see this as an attempt to belittle the PLO. It is an attempt to disdain the PLO; but I do not see that this can belittle the role of the PLO. The PLO is a people's leadership. These few instigating and distorting words cannot change the PLO's stand since these words are so transparent that they reveal what is behind them. The Jordanian regime is using such words when it talks about the PLO's independence. The difference between us and them is that they say something and do something else, but we say what we do and do what say. He who is concerned for the PLO's independence does not seek to supplant it and negotiate on its behalf.

Why does the Jordanian regime want to negotiate the rights of the Palestinian people and in doing so supplant the PLO? Why does as-Sadat want to negotiate the rights of the Palestinian Arab people and practice that in deed? Why have not we done what as-Sadat did and what the Jordanian regime wants to do? It is because we adhere to the independence of the PLO. The PLO officials understand that it was proposed in the past that Syria solve its local problem in isolation of the Palestinian rights. Syria refused. They understand that it was proposed that Syria solve its regional problem and Jordan solve the Palestinian problem according to the U.S. view at the same time so it might not be said it acted unilaterally. It again refused. This happened after the Sinai agreement. We were offered to sign a disengagement of forces agreement. We said we would discuss the disengagement of forces and at the same time the PLO would discuss the rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

They said that it is possible for you and Jordan to discuss the disengagement agreements. We said: No. We said: We and the PLO must be together at the same time. This was refused by them. We informed them then that we would not even attend the Geneva conference except with the PLO and not with Palestinians as individuals. We did not accept holding negotiations over the Golan within the framework of disengagement. This is because, in our opinion, the agreements, which were proposed or signed following the first disengagement between the forces, are political agreements. These are examples of what we do and what others do.

That the Jordanian regime is shedding tears like as-Sadat over the independence of the PLO is regrettable and ridiculous. The vanguards and bases of the Palestinian people are the first to realize this.

What is Syrian's interest in abrogating the PLO's role? Syria has neither a pan-Arab nor a regional interest in this. There is no dispute between Syria and the PLO over any matter. But they are seeking to deprive the PLO of any real and basic support. They know that if the PLO is separated from Syria, it will lose its most important support and it will be bypassed with fewer obstacles. This is what they are trying to achieve. However, the matter is clear to us in as much as it is clear to the PLO.

As for the hegemony they are talking about, we have no pleasure or interest in it. We act out of devotion to a cause. This cause is the one which dominates us all and should dominate the others as well. This cause is leading our march in Syria and that of the PLO.

We in Syria and those in the PLO appreciate that a strong and united Syria with the PLO constitutes a strong guarantee for the Palestinian people's rights and a strong guarantee for the independence of the PLO. It also constitutes a solid barrier against those who are trying to relinquish these rights or to pin hopes on the independence of the PLO.

[Question] It is being said that the partners of the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation, by boycotting the summit conference, have against their wish contributed to violating the role of the Arab oil states in the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula, and that is what the United States had accomplished when it exploited the Iranian events and the Iraqi-Iranian war; in other words, the division that emerged over the summit has created an atmosphere to be exploited by Washington with the so-called pro-U.S. Arabs against the so-called pro-Soviet Arabs. Mr President, please comment on this call and shed light on it.

[Answer] Naturally, we in Syria hope that there are only Arab Arabs. Nor pro-Soviet Arabs or the pro-U.S. Arabs. I do not think that the conference should lead to the isolation of the oil states from their struggling role and from their role in the Arab-Israeli role. This conference is not a principle or a policy in itself. It is also not an issue in itself. It is merely an occasion. We could have gathered good fruits from it but that is not what has happened. However, the matter is not that grave and it is impermissible to exaggerate the matter to make the conference look like the issue of all issues, particularly since the basic policies have not been relinquished by us or by the oil states. These basic policies are: Arab solidarity and continuing the struggle for the sake of liberating the occupied Arab territories and restoring the Palestinian people's rights. Neither we nor anyone else said that relations among the Arab sides will be linked with the stand on this conference. If there is anyone who says this, he alone must shoulder the responsibility. Therefore, I believe that all will continue to play their roles and develop and intensify these roles out of the pan-Arab duty and the feeling of danger that can be termed the pan-Arab danger. The pan-Arab danger constitutes the fateful danger.

[Question] Syria's position on the Iraqi-Iranian war needs to be clarified to the Arab Gulf. Could we hear your views on this matter?

[Answer] Our position and course on such matters are determined by pan-Arab interests. Without being emotional, we in Syria and the other countries of the Steadfast Front believe our position on this war expresses Arab sentiments and interests.

I would like to say something on this subject. Our Iraqi brothers began the war without our knowledge and without saying a word to us about it. We were not consulted and we did not exchange any viewpoints on it. We heard about the war like everyone else, like people, say, in a Latin American country or any other remote area in the world. This is not a matter of formality but substance. War is a big thing. They say this is a pan-Arab issue. Matters would have been easier and the situation would have been different if the war had been imposed on us, thus giving us no time to exchange opinions. But what happened was that it was we who started the war. It was we who took the first step. Therefore, we had the time and ability to contact and consult with each other. This is if the decision was not to be a common one. We also have to consider that we began a war against a country which has ceased to be hostile after the overthrow of the shah.

Israel has been our undisputed enemy for many years. Yet, we still meet, discuss and agree together on the stands to be adopted in our conflict with this enemy. What if the matter concerns a country which is not an enemy? On the contrary, many if not all Arabs agree that Iran is a friendly Muslim country.

Even after waging its war, Iraq insisted that all Arab states must applaud and glorify it. Iraq rejected all political efforts and good offices. It rejected everything short of support for the war. It said: I am leading and you follow. We understand this to mean that we were to follow Iraq even to hell.

We are responsible people and are defending a just cause. Therefore, we cannot just take any action without knowing first in what direction we are moving and why we are moving in such a direction. I say all this while taking into consideration the fact that we were the ones who began the war and we were the ones who crossed the border and trespassed other people's territory and not vice versa. Had it been the other way round, our position would have been different. If it were Iran which began the war and entered Iraqi territory, we would definitely have not questioned the matter, regardless of our positive or negative relations with the Iraqi regime.

When we consider the causes of this and the way it was started, we must remember that the Iraqi regime waged war against Iran, Syria and other Arab countries at the same time. It waged a military war against Muslim Iran and a propaganda war against Syria and other Arab countries, utilizing all the media in its possession. As a matter of fact I can go further by saying that in its preparation for this war, Iraq started off by waging a propaganda war against Syria and other Arab countries.

I believe everyone recalls the Syrian Embassy incident in Baghdad when the Iraqi security authorities stormed the embassy, detained its staff, beat them up and handcuffed them. It placed explosives and poisonous materials in the embassy, took photographs of all that and then claimed that Syria had stocked up those explosives in its embassy. Such claims could have been disproved by any Arab. We and everyone knows that whoever wants to stock up explosives will not place them in an embassy. It is very easy to find a house or a hideout for this purpose in a big city like Baghdad. Still, they committed this act, an act unprecedented in our time. We did not say anything, even when they humiliated the embassy staff and expelled them in a regrettable manner.

Despite all this when the war started we decided not to respond to their media offensive. If you refer to our papers and radio for a period of 2 or 3 weeks, you will find that we did not respond to the media of the Iraqi regime.

Yet after the passing of this period, we concluded that it had become quite necessary to respondmainly for the following reasons:

First: They had misinterpreted our silence.

Second: And this is the most important factor, we had become obliged to clarify our position on this harmful war, which constitutes a catastrophe for our pan-Arab interests and aspirations. We would not have been honest with ourselves and with our nation had we remained silent. Therefore, after the passing of the 6th week, as I recall, we started to record and announce our position through our various information organs. We clarified our position on Iraq's reasoning, reasoning which they did not disclose to us.

They had not contacted us before launching the war. They have directly placed us in a trench that is hostile to them. While, as a matter of comparison, during the October war and in spite of what prevailed them between us and them, I dispatched to them one and then two Syrian officials to put them in the picture and to ask them what they might offer. I felt then that it was my duty to do so simply because they are from an Arab state and because they are concerned with the struggle between the Arabs and Israel. I here remind everybody that Israel wants its state to extend between the Nile and the Euphrates. This is in addition to the fact that the Arabs unanimously prepared for the October war. If we go a little further back, we'll notice that several Arab meetings were held at different levels between the years 1967 and 1973. All those meetings were devoted to tackling the Arab-Israeli struggle and to bolstering the Arabs capabilities and readiness for a war between the Arabs and Israel.

During a meeting of the Arab defense council a short time before 6 October 1973, a meeting which was held at the level of defense ministers, the military commitments were distributed among the Arab countries that were capable of offering such military commitments. There were specific commitments that should have been shouldered by fraternal Iraq. A few days before the war, Lt Gen Ahmad Isma'il 'Ali--who was then the general commander of the joint Syrian-Egyptian armed forces command--went to Baghdad and asked our brothers in Baghdad to shoulder their commitments and to send their war contribution to Syria. He was told, "We cannot." Then he reminded them of the commitments which they had earlier accepted. And again their answer was "we cannot because things between us and Iran are not good." He asked them to station a mechanized brigade near the Syrian border so this brigade might take its position at the right time. And the answer was: "We cannot." He asked them to send some squadrons to Syria and the answer was "We cannot do so and cannot offer anything to you." When he told them that we are on our way to war, we and Syria, they replied: "Fight you two together, may God grant you success."

Ahmad Isma'il 'Ali returned from Baghdad and I met him here in this hall. He told me: "This is the stand of our brothers in Iraq. We cannot depend on them. They have completely rejected a response to any of my requests."

I say again, that despite all this and as soon as the war started, I dispatched Syrian officials to them because things here are related to the struggle against Israel and to conferences of various kinds, namely summit conferences, defense council meetings, foreign ministers meetings and many other meetings of experts at a lower level.

So what would be the case here when the issue is related to a neighboring Muslim country, a country in which a revolution occurred. This revolution declares: We are with you Arabs, we are with Palestine, we have a holy religious duty to fight in Palestine and for the sake of Jerusalem.

We should have met to discuss things and exchange our viewpoints. At least, as I mentioned before, they should have sent to us someone to say that we have fought for the following reasons. This is the least expected of them. Yet they have not done even this "least."

They say that the 1975 agreement is unjust, that it granted Iraqi territory to Iran and that they are now fighting to regain this territory. What we know is that they considered the 1975 agreement a victory which they celebrated all over Iraq. They exerted political efforts to achieve this agreement. Now they say something else. The same regime and the same person signed the agreement and launched the war. The contradiction is very great. We want our minds respected by others. How can we launch a ruinous war to regain territory which we conceded, out of our free will and without war and for the concession of which we signed? The same person who signed on the document of concession is now fighting to regain this territory because, as they say, the agreement is unjust. Had this territory been taken by war, this fighting would have some logic. This territory was taken by mutual agreement and by means of what they once regarded as victory, as I have just said. Is it not our duty to utilize our nonmilitary resources before resorting to military means? As a regime in Iraq, have they exerted their utmost to reach an agreement on this territory? Have they used the Arab political capabilities to reach an agreement on this territory? They have done nothing of the sort. We also must ask: Is our war with Iran a top priority? Is this the time, if war is necessary? We must also ask: Is it not a great gain that Iran is now on our side after having been on Israel's side? That the Islamic Iranian revolution declares and affirms that it is on the Arabs' side in their struggle to regain their occupied territories, the rights of the Palestinian Arab people and Jerusalem? Is it not our duty to preserve this great gain and work for its expansion and development instead of losing it and working for the creation of a permanent enemy and a new political and military front in the Arab east? We must remember that as Arabs, we have always demanded of ourselves to attempt to win over public opinion, whether political, media or [word indistinct] everywhere in the world.

How can we lose a great gain such as the Islamic revolution of Iran with all its human, military and economic resources? We are not satisfied with losing this country; we are going so far as to transform it into a hostile country and another Israel in the Arab east. Another question. The shah of Iran worked on a truly Persian basis and tried, as is well known, to tear out Iran from Islamic history and from Arab history. At that time we never raised our voices in praise of Arab-Persian hostility. Now, the man who has come to raise the banner of Islam and to transcend Persianism is faced by our enmity and by our hostility to his Islamic slogans which place us in the same trench against the Zionist and imperialist plots in the region. We insist that he is a Magian Persian, that the hostility between the Arabs and Persians is eternal and that these are the grounds and the cause for the war.

Hence, we found that we could not contribute to consolidating the aims and rationalization of the war as defined by the fighting, its planners and its executors. We want to prevent the war from achieving its direct aims, namely to take revenge on Islamic revolutionary Iran, to push it back into the lap of the U.S. imperialism and to make it side with Israel again. This is the crux of the issue and that is what the United States is seeking. This also contradicts our interests and pan-Arab aspirations.

The matter is not connected to the land or to the usurped Arab rights or the Arab rights which we desire to regain. It is connected to hatred against Iran, which departed from the U.S. orbit and from its affilation with Israel to return to what it was before. Thus we adopted our stand on this war. We are confident that this is the real pan-Arab stand which is dictated by our affiliation to this Arab nation. Any other stand would represent a deviation from this affiliation.

This stand of ours--in addition to that fact that it had prevented the achievement of the basic objectives of this war, which sought to inflict huge political, military and historical damages, particularly in the long-run--this stand of ours will in the near future contribute to eliminating all the negative effects resulting from or which could result from this war in terms of our Arab countries.

[Question] Some people say that the causes of the war between Iraq and Iran are clear. But what is being said now is that at a time when your stand can leave windows open to preserve the ties with Iran, the Iranian revolution has led to the deepening of Arab rift. In other words, it has deepened polarization through the struggle. There is one point in the Iranian behavior which suggested that it wanted to expand the war through the shelling of the Al-'Abdali area in Kuwait twice. This matter has raised concern and fear that the matter is beyond the direct struggle or the limited struggle between Iraq and Iran.

[Answer] Your question raises more than one point. First, you said that Syria's stand and that of the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation and perhaps the stand of others toward this war would maintain in the future more than one road, more than one window and more than one choice before the Arabs to remedy the existing problems or those which might exist between Iran and some of the Arabs or all the Arabs. You also said that this stand will not leave us with only one choice. Second, this stand will not contribute to realizing one basic and major objective and perhaps the most important objective of the war's objectives, namely to drive the Islamic revolution in Iran to throw itself into the lap of the United States, and consequently it will prevent the return of Iran to Israel's fold. The third point raised by your question is the dimension of the Iranian revolution in the area and its effects on the others. This could probably pose a broad question, namely; is it possible to achieve coexistence between the Islamic revolution in Iran and the other Arab regimes in the area? Here it is natural for some of our Arab brothers to feel concern as a result of some manifestations in the Iranian arena. This, however, should not prevent the possibility of achieving coexistence with this reality in the future. Here it is assumed that we view first the Arab reality and how regimes enjoying divergent views are coexisting and cooperating.

If we, the Arabs, the sons of the one nation, are coexisting with regimes enjoying divergent views--and it is known that it is not easy to influence each other--how is it that we cannot coexist with the Islamic revolution in Iran. We must view this matter, particularly since we have facts that refute the views of those who say that it is impossible to coexist, and we assert that this kind of coexistence is possible.

The fourth point raised by your question is the possibility of the expansion of the war. Here I appreciate that we play an important role. Perhaps it is a humble result of the results of our present and future stand. Perhaps it points out advantages of the stand Syria and other Arab states have adopted toward this war. This asserts the harmony of our stand and that of these states with the pan-Arab aspirations and interests.

Earlier, when the first signs on the expansion of this war appeared and when some statements were made, indicating the possibility of chasing some Iraqi naval vessels heading for some other Gulf states' ports, we hastened to hold contacts with the Iranian officials and stressed the danger of expanding the war and the danger of attacking other Arab states. We explained to them that this means a war between you and the Arabs and not between you and the Iraqi regime. We added that we advise and stress that no action constituting an aggression against any other Arab state should be undertaken. We later repeated this advice and these contacts more than once. In our assessment, these contacts and words had a real effect on preventing the extension of the war.

Regarding the recently mentioned air raids against Al-'Abdali region in Kuwait, we have also discussed this matter with some officials in Iran. We were clear and did not hesitate for a moment. We contacted our brothers in Kuwait. 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam contacted Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad. We expressed our readiness to send some of our forces and to have them placed at the disposal of the Kuwaiti command. We were and are still serious regarding this proposal, in light of the discussions, to which I made reference, between us and Iran for some time and up to now, we are fully convinced that aggression against Kuwait or the other Arab states does not constitute a goal for Iran. I emphasize our stand by the side of any Arab Gulf state that is exposed to aggression.

[Question] It has been reported that Syria has massed troops on its border with Iraq, closed its border with Iraq and stopped transit to Iraq. It has also been reported that Syria has supported Iran with men and arms. What does the president say about all this?

[Answer] We have not massed a single soldier on our border with Iraq, nor did we close the border for even 1 hour. The movement of people, transport and transit between the two countries is going on normally. We are sorry that there are some who fake these facts. Regarding men and arms: When the Iraqi regime had earlier spoken about this subject, Syria sent an official memorandum to the Arab League secretary general, calling on him to conduct an investigation. The memorandum was followed by a telephone call to him by the Syrian foreign minister. If we had offered men and arms to Iran, the investigation would have taken place and the Iraqi regime would have been the first to back the investigation. If we had wanted to offer men and arms, it would have been better for us to use them across our border with Iraq and not across Iran.

[Question] There are some who talk about an invisible complex between Syria and Iraq. What is it? Can you shed light on it?

[Answer] In the past we tried to turn relations between Syria and Iraq into one of the largest sources of the Arabs' strength. As observers recall, we undertook more than one initiative in this regard. overlooking all negative aspects and tensions present in our relations. Among these initiatives was a letter I sent to the Iraqi leadership after As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem and another letter after the Camp David accords.

I even went to Iraq, overstepping all obstacles and trying to move this meeting as much as possible in the direction of unity. Several agreements and meetings were concluded and held between us. I am not concerned with speaking about them now. At the end of these meetings we agreed to unity and prepared the constitutional bills. We even agreed to the major part of these bills.

Suddenly, the head of the Iraqi leadership changed and a few days later there suddenly emerged a plot in Iraq reportedly concocted by Syria and implemented by a large number of prominent Iraqi leaders at that time. Relations worsened and every joint acton between Syria freezes and even collapses and all words about unity stop. The friendship and fraternal relations, which had existed for some time, turned into accusations, curses and hard words. Meanwhile, Syria had nothing to do with all this and it was faultless except in being serious about the issue of unity, something which jeopardizes the foreign interests in general, and the American and Israeli interests in particular.

We could not do anything about the others' insistence on continuing their role in destroying what we intended and had achieved along the path of attaining unity. I addressed messages and sent delegations and called for a Syrian-Iraqi-Arab investigation to clarify facts. However, all our efforts and proposals were not lent an ear.

I have no doubt that this action was behind the scheme which brought us to this situation. Only God knows the point we will reach later. But, sooner or later, Syria and Iraq will meet. Those who are trying to prevent this meeting between Syria and Iraq will fail.

[Question] Allow me to move to another point. It has been said that Syria was trying to avoid concluding the treaty [with the USSR] and that it was working to keep the relations with the USSR within a framework of continued relations of friendship and cooperation without a treaty, but the treaty was signed. Was there anything which called for this?

[Answer] After As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem, Egypt departed from the Arab trench in the Arab-Israeli conflict. The situation developed and Egypt joined the Israeli trench. The already bad situation in the region continued to deteriorate. Some Arab states, although few, supported As-Sadat's stand although they attended the Baghdad summit conference. The U.S. military aid for Israel greatly increased instead of decreasing. The United States established bases and increased their number in the region including the bases in Egypt. Of course, it must not escape notice that the United States does not have a U.S. policy in this region but, unlike other world regions, an Israeli policy carried out by the United States. When we understand this fact, we see the great danger in these developments. Egypt departed; Israel's military capabilities are increasing; some Arab countries support As-Sadat; U.S. bases are increasing in the region; and the Arab efforts--even if serious--are not able to achieve the balance which will enable them to defend the Arab nation in the face of these developments in the near future.

At the same time Israel threatens and bullies. And signs appear that some other Arabs are marching toward a new Camp David. As a result of this the way to the greater Israel does not appear to be impossible. I regret to say that we Arabs still see things through a short-range magnifying lens. If the greater Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates is established, we Arabs will be wandering men lost on the margins of life and history. It does not escape me to mention here, between inverted commas, that As-Sadat's generosity and liberality in offering Israel the water of the Nile is an important brick in the establishment of the glorious Israeli state.

In light of these developments from this standpoint, we had to look hard for sources of strength to help us face this great and dangerous Zionist advance composed of and aided by these developments. In strengthening the existing relations with the USSR, we found the strength we were looking for.

Thus, we consider this an Arab and not a Syrian matter. That is, this treaty constitutes a source of our strength as Arabs and not only as Syrians. A proof of the importance of this treaty is the Israeli, U.S. and Egyptian attack. We also regret that the Jordanian regime has joined this group in their attack against the treaty. We all understand that if we do not have the military force capable of facing aggression, we will have no choice but to submit to the fait accompli, hold up our hands for the enemy and follow As-Sadat's Israeli torches.

I see them crying over Syria's sovereignty and independence as they cry over the PLO's independence. It seems that their conviction is that each of us loses as much in will and independence as we gain in capability and strength. To their understanding, the PLO loses its independence to the degree that strength and support are supplied by Syria and that Syria loses its independence to the degree that it can provide itself with sources of strength and support. This is why As-Sadat was concerned for Syria's role after this treaty and why the others were concerned for Syria's role after this treaty. The fact is that they feared Syria's role in the serious confrontation of the Zionist aggression and its role in preventing the carrying out of hostile schemes following the securing of an additional source which increases its armament and military capability.

I do not say this to harm anybody. But I see the obvious things as they are. Why attack the treaty? The treaty stresses the increase of Syria's military capability, support for Syria and the Arabs in their just struggle against occupation, for the Palestinian question and the continued struggle against imperialism, Zionism and racism and support for Syria's policy and its position in the nonaligned movement and for other such stands. Does this harm the Arabs? Is this anything but support for the Arab trend in general and for the Arab will and wishes?

Are we not working for increasing our military capability and ensuring the sources for increasing this capability? Isn't the struggle against imperialism, Zionism and racism our sole concern and top priority? Isn't the entrenchment of nonaligned policy in today's world our sole concern? These are the things underscored by the treaty.

Doesn't the treaty--in the concepts I mentioned--strengthen our stands in confronting the Zionist enemy, liberating our territory and regaining the rights of the Palestinian Arab people? Isn't this treaty essential and important in facing the indestructible and inseparable organic link between Israel and the United States?

Therefore, why are some attacking and others lamenting? It is the instructions of the United States and Israel that dictate this. Why do they only consider the Soviet Union and not the purport of the treaty? Why should they mind Soviet military and political support for us since they are not against a serious confrontation of the Israeli aggression?

I wish they were in a position to add a similar effort to the Arab effort against Zionism. Can they achieve a similar treaty with the United States? We in Syria will support any Arab regime that can achieve a treaty of friendship and cooperation, having the same purpose and substance, with any other power, even if that power is the United States. If anyone of them is able to conclude a treaty with the United States providing for increasing military support and waging common struggle against Zionism, imperialism and racism, or even Zionism alone, I would be the first to publicly support it and the Arab side in concluding such a treaty. If they cannot do this, then they must stop lamenting our fate, because in doing so they are only lamenting the fate of the U.S.-Israeli policy. Proof of this is that as a result of his alliance with Israel and the United States, As-Sadat has lost the power to make the United States turn against Zionism. The actual result was that As-Sadat himself joined the chorus singing the praises of world Zionism.

Finally, I would like to say that the treaty is a source of strength. It behooves all Arabs to continue to search for more sources of strength. After all, this is a pan-Arab cause. Therefore, we must not consider any alternative to our joint Arab effort, which must grow day after day until we are strong enough to face all dangers.

[Question] Mr President, you have begun the unity process with Libya. But it seems that there has been a delay in following up this process. It has also been said that the two leaderships were scheduled to meet, but this meeting has not yet taken place. What is your comment on this?

[Answer] Actually, our meeting was somewhat delayed, despite the desire of both sides to stick to the approximate dates agreed upon. This was due to the developments and events in the region. We are in the process of arranging a meeting between us soon to continue the work.

We have prepared the general outlines for unity which we will discuss at the next meeting. Both sides insist that the maximum should be achieved at the earliest opportunity. I do not want to say what would result from our meeting, because, first, this is a question of common efforts. Second, the process we are undertaking is great, calling for extra effort and followup. We do not want to sensationalize, but to stick to reality, unlike Arab custom, we prefer to achieve more than what we say.

I would like to stress that we in Syria and Libya are determined to achieve unity between the two countries. Our common decision is to overcome all obstacles that might stand in the way of unity. This great work is the hope of scores of millions of Arabs, not only in Syria and Libya but throughout the Arab world.

[Question] It is said that contacts are underway to hold a summit of the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation in reply to the Amman summit. How true is this?

[Answer] As you know, the states of the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation have been in continuous contact, both before and after the summit. The Steadfast Front also holds periodic meetings. But the front has not made a decision to hold a summit.

[Question] Mr President, would you kindly conclude this meeting by shedding some light on the internal situation in Syria following the recent events?

[Answer] We regret to say that the United States and Israel were able to find some agents in our country during the recent stage. We regret to say that the United States and Israel were able to use many of those who belong to the Muslim Brotherhood and to exploit some other Arab parties to serve their interests. Those agents and parties committed numerous acts of sabotage and assassination, something which opposes our national, moral and pan-Arab values and traditions and, most of all, contradicts our religious teachings. Such acts are unprecedented in our history. When the objectives of sabotage became clear to our people, when the masses because aware of the demensions and the real objectives of the plotting, when it became clear that all this constituted a serious threat to Syria's firmness and confrontation against the aggression and a threat to the Arab interests and national aspirations and when the link between these agents and some other parties abroad was completely disclosed, our people--in their various forces, parties and popular organizations--hurried to strike at this misguided group which has linked itself to the foreigners.

When our people and their popular organizations decided to strike at this group, it only took a relatively short time chasing the members of this group. We now consider the issue solved and our internal situation has returned to normal. Our security worries are now normal and similar to those of any other country living under normal circumstances.

Press Reaction

JN060653 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 6 Dec 80

[Press review]

[Text] The newspapers published today highlight on their front pages the important press interview made by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad to the Kuwaiti newspaper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM.

TISHRIN says: Leader President al-Asad places the facts before the nation; pan-Arab considerations and our concern for the Jordanian soldier prevented military action; if we wanted, we could have reached any point in Jordan within a few hours; our objective is to stop the Jordanian regime's involvement against Syria and the PLO; they are attacking the treaty because they are afraid of a strong Syria; had Iran been the beginner, we would not have asked any questions, despite what there is between us and the Iraqi regime; we advised Iran not to take any action that constitutes an aggression on an Arab state; had we permitted the annulment of the PLO's role, no sabotage acts would have taken place; I confirm our stand alongside any Arab state in the Gulf which is subjected to aggression; Syria and Iraq will come together and all those who are trying to prevent this meeting will fall.

In banner headlines, the newspaper ATH-THAWRAH says: In a comprehensive press interview, leader Al-Asad places all the facts before the Arab masses; the Jordanian regime's plotting in facts and evidence; America and Israel want to end Syria because it embodies the real confrontation; the Syrian-Soviet treaty is strength for the Arabs.

In its column "Opinion" under the headline "Frankness With the Masses Is a Principle To Which We Are Committed," ATH-THAWRAH says: Frankness with the masses and putting them in the picture concerning the real Arab situation and its current developments is the characteristic trait of this country's firm and principled policy, which is clear and frank in word, deed and practice. It is this trait which has given Syria's stand its weight on the Arab and international levels, because it is a stand that depends upon the masses and expresses their aspirations, acts according to their will and works to bring about their objectives.

In his frank and comprehensive interview, leader President Hafiz al-Asad placed all the facts before the Arab masses so they would be in immediate contact with all the events that surround them and with all the confrontations that await them, pertaining to their present and future. Syria's policies and trends give the action of the masses its natural status because it realizes that the national and pan-Arab achievements in the fields of construction, preparation for the confrontation, liquidation of the gangs of murder and sabotage and defeat of external plotting were accomplished through the strength of these masses and their rallying around their firm stands. It is this which makes Syria's word supreme, its power effective and its stand a guarantee for bringing about the pan-Arab objectives.

DAMASCUS REPORTS ON U.S. ARMS AIRLIFT TO JORDAN

JN061437 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1407 GMT 6 Dec 80

[Text] Amman--The United States has begun an airlift to supply King Husayn with weapons and military equipment. A U.S. Defense Department spokesman has announced that the first of five transport planes carrying U.S. military equipment will arrive in Jordan today. The spokesman added that the second plane will leave for Jordan this evening and the third is due to arrive there the day after tomorrow, Monday. The spokesman declined to disclose the type of military equipment carried by these planes to the Jordanian regime.

DAMASCUS: JORDANIAN REGIME HAD TO BE TAUGHT LESSON

JN051524 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 5 Dec 80

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Perhaps King Husayn's regime now understands very clearly what it was not able to comprehend in words. Perhaps the king's regime has now understood the forceful lessons which it tried to ignore and to elude. Syria had to stress these lessons for those who try to ignore and elude facts.

Since Syria's military and nonmilitary measures have been able to make those who do not understand words understand, then they must understand very well, now and henceforth, that Syria's hand is strong and can reach them anywhere to inflict the nation's punishment whenever they try to escape facts or fool around with the Palestinian question.

The Syrian Army, the hero of the Golan and the national army of the Arabs, which has pledged itself in behalf of Palestine, has moved to caution, to explain and to deter. When it moved to face the conspiracy, the army acted according to the will of the nation and of the one people in Syria and in Jordan to support their one issue, the Palestinian question.

As the Jordanian regime understands the lessons behind this military action, it will undoubtedly take this into consideration whenever it thinks of doing anything in the future. It will understand that the Syrian Army, the knights of the war against the Israeli enemy, will neither lack the means nor be stopped by enemy concentrations or Washington's warnings from deterring Israel's friends and those who try to peddle Israel's plans.

The past few days have proved this established fact. They have also proved another clear fact in which we take pride. Our Arab people in Jordan have stood in the same trench with their twin brother in Arab Syria against the royal provocation and in defense of the Palestinian question. They have firmly confronted the attempts at sabotage and murder despite the deception of the royal information media. This fact honors our Arab people in Jordan. It is a medal to be pinned on the chest of every Golan hero.

Since the Syrian Arab sword has been unsheathed in defense of the one people in Jordan and in Syria and in support of the cause of the one nation, it will never be sheathed until all the nation's internal and external enemies, those who think of harming Syria's steadfastness and the Palestinian question, understand that the strong hand of Damascus, which is supported by the people, can reach them everywhere, to deter and to punish them under any circumstances.

It should be clear now, for those who have understood and those who must understand, that Syria will not allow anyone to fool around with the Palestinian question. It will not allow any party to sidestep the PLO, the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people.

The conspirators against the Palestinian question tried to strike inside Syria by using the murderous gangs which have been liquidated by our people. Syria has always understood that the target has been Palestine, which they tried to reach through Syria. Syria will not permit and will not keep silent on this. Syria, whose destiny has been linked with that of the Palestinian question, was and will be the heart, the mind, the shield and the sword of the issue against all conspirators. Syria will always be able to deter all perpetrators, to foil their schemes, and to make them understand what they cannot understand in words.

Our people in the occupied territories are facing enemy bullets with their bare hands and defiant chests. The duty of brotherhood and of the one destiny compels Syria to increase and enhance its support for these revolutionaries by eliminating any attempt which aims at bypassing their and our issue in order to keep them under occupation or to share with the enemy domination over their lands and to suppress and to pack them into prisons and detention camps.

Therefore, the Damascene sword, the well-known Arab sword, will remain unsheathed until all conspiracies are buried, land liberated and rights regained. This is what we wanted King Husayn to understand. Perhaps this is what the King's regime will understand now and henceforth.

LIBYA

TRIPOLI REPORTS ON U.S. REPLY TO PROTEST

LD061322 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 Dec 80

[Text] The Arab Libyan People's Bureau in Washington has received a reply from the U.S. State Department to the protest memorandum submitted by the foreign liaison office about the U.S.-Egyptian maneuvers which took place on the borders of the Jamahiriyah last November. The U.S. reply says that the Egyptian president a number of times sought permission from the U.S. government to attack Libya but the United States in each instance was in no position to give permission to the Egyptian president to launch an attack against Libya. The U.S. State Department has admitted, in its reply to the protest memorandum, that U.S. aircraft on a number of accasions violated Libyan airspace during the maneuvers in the zone marked by latitudes 30 to 32 degrees.

JANA REPORTS EMERGENCY IN SOMALI ARMED FORCES

LD051612 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 Dec 80

[Text] Mogadishu, 5 Dec (JANA)--Reports coming from Somalia have stated that a state of emergency has been declared within the ranks of the Somali Armed Forces and that an extensive campaign of arrests took place in the ranks of the army after a mutinous movement within the ranks of the Somali Air Force was uncovered 1 day before the October celebrations. These reports have stressed that this movement, which is supported by a number of other Somali military units, sought to overthrow the regime of Siad Barre. The reports speak of sharp differences between Siad Barre and his defense minister after this movement was uncovered and the measures that followed it.

It is known that Somalia is currently living in a state of increasing popular turmoil against Barre's regime, which has introduced American military bases to the country. A number of popular uprisings occurred in the country against this regime led by the National Salvation Front and its revolutionary committees spread out through all sectors and localities of the country.

AL-QADHDHAFI ADDRESSES STUDENTS ON 'MOBILIZATION'

LD071640 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Dec 80

[Text] The brother leader has reaffirmed that the real solution in confronting the imperialist onslaught against the Arab nation is the realization of immediate unity and the establishment of a military force to confront the military interference in the Arab land.

At his meeting this morning with the students of the Al-Fatih and Qar Yunis Universities by means of closed circuit, the leader reaffirmed that the Arab nation should mobilize its forces in confronting its enemy in order to defeat the United States and regain the Arab nation's prestige. He said that the true direction for this mobilization is to introduce military training in the schools, institutes and colleges because students are a living force capable of fighting. The leader pointed out that the introduction of military training in schools does not mean the halting of education and science. But we have to have the textbook in one hand and the weapon in the other in order to strike a happy medium between the textbook and the weapon.

The leader reaffirmed anew that the introduction of military training in schools and colleges is to make the people armed in readiness to launch the counterattack against U.S. bases. The leader added that a comprehensive mobilization of all living forces underway to face the interference, and that the battle is the battle of the entire Arab nation because imperialism aims at all the Arabs. The brother leader also met this morning with Arab students studying at Qar Yunis University.

DECISION ON WEST BANK MAYORS, REACTION REPORTED

TA051238 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 5 Dec 80

[Text] We will now go over to the prime minister's office, where the prime minister, with a ministerial team and others have been consulting for more than 3 hours about the Supreme Court's decision to rediscuss the affair of the deportees. We will go over to Shim'on Schiffer and the news conference now beginning:

[Schiffer] The ministerial consultation headed by the prime minister ended less than an hour ago and now we are here, in the conference room of the prime minister's office. Justice Minister Moshe Nisim will bring us the decisions from the ministerial consultations. Mr Justice Minister, please:

[Nisim] Well, gentlemen, as you know, yesterday the high court of justice issued its decision on the deportation of the Hebron and Halhul mayors. The court, by a majority decision, judged that it had not found any legal fault in what had been recommended and what had been decided. Thus, the deportation order, of course, is valid.

At the end of presiding Judge Landau's verdict, there was a recommendation to the political echleons--which are capable of considering the question from all sides as the verdict said--to reexamine the decision. The prime minister summoned a meeting of the ministerial committee for security affairs for today to discuss the Supreme Court recommendation because of the respect the government accords this important institution.

The ministerial committee for security affairs discussed the court's verdict which was, as I said, handed down yesterday, regarding the deportation order issued against those two mayors. The committee heard the opinions of the defense elements and, after the committee had considered all the aspects of security and public safety, it came to the conclusion that the deportation order was to be implemented. I would like to add that by doing this, by meeting today to discuss the Supreme Court recommendation, the government accorded the recommendation full respect. I might add that it was a prolonged, in-depth and thorough discussion. There was no alternative for the ministerial committee for security affairs other than to make the decision it did because it was faced with important security and public safety considerations, issues that were the basis of the calculation when it was decided--first, to issue the deportation order and, second, to maintain the order following the appearance of the two mayors before the recommendations committee. As you know, the commander of the Judaea and Samaria area decided to implement the order in accordance with the advisory committee's recommendations.

[Schiffer] Mr Justice Minister, when will the deportation order be implemented? When will the mayors be expelled from Israel and were political factors and data, which could affect this order, also taken into account in today's debate?

[Nisim] The implementation is in the hands of the area commander. The ministerial committee did not discuss a specific moment or any time frame and this did not enter into the discussions at all. All it had to decide was whether to implement the order or not. The date, the time--all this--is handed over to the commander of Judaea and Samaria. As for your second question, the State of Israel is in a situation in which its security considerations must be decisive and must also take precedence over political considerations. We felt among ourselves that this issue of the deportation of the two mayors was by way of being a necessity to maintain security. I am convinced that this is also for the benefit of the population, when the ability to incite it to actions against the public security will undoubtedly be weaker without the presence of those two mayors.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Justice Minister, there was a high court proposal to give the mayors the opportunity to prove the sincerity of their statements as they expressed them to the military appeals committee. Is the deportation order final or will they be rehabilitated when the time comes?

[Nisim] Well, this issue, this order, is one that stands on its own. It has already happened in the fact that there were deportation orders and afterward the deportees were brought back. This is not one of the types of decisions that remain as they are forever. The responsible authority, of course, is always entitled to reconsider.

[Unidentified correspondent] How will today's Cabinet decision effect the peace talks, the autonomy talks [words indistinct]?

[Nisim] In my view, this decision should not have any effect at all on the autonomy talks or other political situations or other political issues. This is a decision lying within the authority of the responsible authority in Israel, the security authority, over which the government is responsible and, as I said, it is by way of being a necessity. These are security considerations which must take precedence over everything else. But I am convinced that this decision will not lead to any damage or any delay or putting off the chances of achieving an agreement on autonomy and everything this involves.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Minister, did you consider the political aspects and are you prepared to accept the result [words indistinct]?

[Nisim] Well, I already said earlier that we evaluated all the political considerations and we also saw, before our eyes, the recommendation. Of course, it was for this purpose, too, that we met--the recommendation by the majority judges of the Supreme Court. We had to make this decision because, as I said, it takes precedence over any other consideration.

[Schiffer] The justice minister said that all considerations were reviewed. The deportation orders remain valid but the justice minister added that there certainly may be a possibility that in the future the responsible authority will change the decision. Here we return the broadcast to the "Midday Newsreel" studio.

Transfer of Mayors

TA051503 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 5 Dec 80

[Excerpt] The mayors of Hebron and Halhul have been taken out of the Ramla Prison and driven to the north of Israel.

6 Dec Disturbances

TA061123 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 6 Dec 80

[Text] There were disturbances in Judaea and Samaria this morning in reaction to the deportation of the Hebron Hills mayors. Several hundred female students staged a demonstration in Halhul this morning and blocked the access road to their school. They were dispersed with teargas. Students rioted in the (Behusam) school in the Hebron district. In a school in Bethelem the students staged a demonstration. In several incidents stones were hurled at Israeli vehicles in Ramallah and Al-Birah.

The disturbances peaked with a demonstration in Bi'r Zayt, where students blocked the road with stones. They were dispersed with teargas and clubs and the security forces were even forced to fire several shots into the air. Our correspondent, Shalom Oren, has been informed that calm currently prevails in Judaea and Samaria.

7 Dec Report

TA070715 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 7 Dec 80

[Text] The military government has reinforced its troops in Judaea and Samaria to preserve public order in the wake of reports about the intention of students and youths in the area to continue to stage demonstrations today to protest the deportation of Fahd al-Qawasimi and Muhammad Milhim. Arye Gus reports from Judaea and Samaria:

[Gus] Yesterday's demonstrations are only the beginning, pledged extremist elements in Judaea and Samaria. The expulsion of the mayors has awakened several sectors which have been dormant recently and has reunited the various political factions in the territories. This is a local assessment which is not shared by members of the military government. The latter note that the disturbances, although of moderate strength, concentrated in the traditional locations--Ramallah, Bi'r Zayt and Nabulus--and were joined by Hebron. No extraordinary activity has been noticed in other sites. However, these sources go on to say, the military government is prepared for any eventuality.

In the meantime, various steps have been taken to reduce the focal points of disturbances. Dozens of youths were arrested, including 20 youths who were detained after the stormy demonstration at Bi'r Zayt. A rally scheduled for today by the Hebron municipality to protest the expulsion was banned by the military government. Acting Hebron Mayor Mustafa 'Abd an-Nabi an-Natshah was summoned to the military government where the governor informed him of the ban on the rally. The minicipality held a strike yesterday as a sign of protest. Other municipalities in Judaea and Samaria sent cables of protest to the military government.

On the other hand, the deported mayors have pledged to continue the struggle and said that they would yet return. In the meantime, I have learned that prior to their deportation, Al-Qawasimi and Milhim said they intended to leave for Madrid to attend the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which is currently discussing the issue of human rights. The mayors intend to demonstrate against their deportation before Jewish representatives and other world minorities.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 7 DECEMBER CABINET SESSION REPORTED

TA071220 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 7 Dec 80

[Excerpts] Two prominent political issues highlighted today's Cabinet session: Minister Abu-Hatzera's absence from the session for the first time in a long time--we have already found out that his abasence was due to the flu--and the surprising announcement made by Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i that he intends to quit his post as minister of communications. Minister Moda'i intends to retain only his post as energy minister. Razi Barqay reports on these and other issues:

[Barqay] The political part of today's Cabinet session was mostly confidential. The ministerial committee for security affairs discussed the deportation of the West Bank mayors and heard a report by the head of military intelligence on the military developments in the Middle East. Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir delivered optimistic remarks at the Cabinet session. I conducted good talks in Paris, Shamir said. Although differences of opinion still persist, it seems that the Europeans have somewhat moderated their arguments with Israel.

As mentioned, these remarks were heard by all the ministers except for the minister of religious affairs. At the same time, Aharon Abu-Hatzera was holding several meetings in Jerusalem and did not attend the Cabinet session.

The ministers expressed their certainty that Abu-Hatzera had taken some sort of vacation. However, the deputy Cabinet secretary told us: Abu-Hatzera simply is sick.

Another minister, Yitzhaq Moda'i, said he would abandon one of the two portfolios he holds. At the Cabinet session Moda'i said that for personal reasons he had decided to give up the communications portfolio. This gave rise to speculation, both among the ministers and the journalists. The prime minister announced that Moda'i's announcement would be discussed next Sunday.

Minister's Resignation

TA071743 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 7 Dec 80

[Text] Communications Minister Moda'i submitted his letter of resignation to the prime minister prior to today's Cabinet session. His associates said this evening that the resignation came against the background of footdragging in regard to turning the Communications Ministry's services over to independent companies and, primarily, the Treasury's objection to the establishment of an independent postal service.

Moda'i also believes that it is not fair that only a limited team of ministers be involved in deciding on price rises, resulting in the fact that the public regards that team negatively. Some of Moda'i's colleagues in the Cabinet told our correspondent that if his resignation is accepted, the door would be open for the Ahva faction's joining of the coalition. The Ahva faction has been demanding that one of its members receive an economic portfolio.

Further Report

TA071835 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 7 Dec 80

[Report by correspondent Razi Barqay on 7 December Cabinet Session--recorded]

[Excerpt] It was a relatively short session with the foreign minister's report on his visit to France as the main item. There was no real change in the Europeans' position but there was certainly more understanding for Israel's positions. The French told Shamir that, in their estimation, Husayn did not intend to join the political negotiations without a prior guarantee of a comprehensive withdrawal from the territories. Husayn would also demand the PLO's incorporation in any talks. Shamir reached a verbal understanding with Butrus Ghali. Both were in France at the time and Butrus Ghali told his Israeli counterpart it could be expected that the autonomy talks would be frozen until the new U.S. administration learned about the issues during the first 6 months of next year.

FOREIGN MINISTRY REACTS TO EUROPEAN PEACE PLAN

TA071321 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 7 Dec 80

[Text] Reacting to a report about a new European Middle East peace plan, Israel's Foreign Ministry says the blueprint for progress in the Middle East is the Camp David framework, not the Common Market's Venice formula.

This morning the left-wing paper ['AL HAMISHMAR] published details of the European plan, reportedly from a secret document. Included are the evacuation of the administered territories by Israel under the direction of international force and a referendum by the Palestinians, including all those who left the area in 1948 and those living in Israel.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said Foreign Minister Shamir had given his reply to the plan while he was in Paris, adding that Israel does not intend to become anyone's protectorate and that the details of the unacceptable plan are unimportant.

The president of the European Parliament, Simone Veil, is in Israel now but was not available for comment this morning.

[Israeli newspapers on 7 December, including 'AL HAMISHAMR and HA'ARETZ, carry reports about the EEC's Middle East document, details of which are said to have been published in a Brussels newspaper and in the Paris paper LE MATIN.]

BURG COMMENTS ON STATUS OF AUTONOMY TALKS

TA070738 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 7 Dec 80

[Interview with Interior Minister and Autonomy Committee Chairman Yosef Burg by U.S. correspondent Shalom Qital; time and place not given--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Dr Burg, what is the value of the talks you held today [with U.S. special envoy Sol Linowitz] or that of Linowitz' visit, bearing in mind the fact that the administration changes in 6 weeks?

[Answer] I think that the way your question was formulated it already contains the answer. Ambassador Linowitz also has to convey his experiences, advice, recommendations and impressions. It is very important to have continuity in the administration's approach toward the problem, through a position that will strengthen the peace process and will identify with the spirit of the Camp David accords. We discussed these topics.

[Question] I understand that the intention is to draw up a document that will sum up the autonomy talks so far. What can you tell us about this document?

[Answer] I am not the one who is supposed to draw up this document. I imagine that this is related to the change of administrations and the outgoing administration has to explain previous decisions, define the problems and, perhaps, even give some advice. In any case, the continuity of a democratic regime and the change of administrations are very important and we discussed these issues today.

[Question] Do you see any chance of a speedy resumption of the autonomy talks by the new administration, by the Reagan administration?

[Answer] I think that the Reagan administration has to set its own order of priorities, bearing in mind the significance and urgency of the problems. I cannot foresee such an order of priorities that would not give a respectable position to our area.

[Question] Where do the autonomy talks stand today? What about the difficulties? We know that there was a U.S. document that was rejected by Israel. What is the situation today?

[Answer] Nothing has changed either in the status or the problems of the talks. I assume that all these issues will be clarified within the next few weeks.

ETHIOPIA

JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON MENGISTU VISIT TO KENYA

LD052110 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1712 GMT 4 Dec 80 EA

[Joint communique issued at the conclusion of the 1-4 December visit to Kenya of Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council of Ethiopia]

[Text] At the invitation of His Excellency Daniel T. Arap Moi, president and commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Kenya, Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council [PMAC], the Council of Ministers and the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia [COPWE] and commander in chief of the Revolutionary Army of socialist Ethiopia, paid an official visit to the Republic of Kenya from 1 to 4 December 1980.

Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam and the members of the Ethiopian delegation were accorded a warm, enthusiastic and fraternal welcome and reception wherever they went in the Republic of Kenya, reflecting the traditional bond of friendship and common aspirations of the peoples of the two sisterly countries.

Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam laid a wreath at the Kenyatta Mausoleum to honor the memory of the great African leader who not only led the struggle for independence of his nation but also later charted the way for the great socioeconomic and cultural achievements of his people. Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam and his delegation from socialist Ethiopia visited various social and economic projects.

During his stay in the Republic of Kenya, Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam held extensive talks with His Excellency President Daniel T. Arap Moi on bilateral, African and international issues. The talks were held in a spirit of friendship and mutual understanding and were attended by high officials of the two countries.

Present on the Ethiopian side were Comrade Brig Gen Tesfaye Gebre Kidan, member of the PMAC Standing Committee and the COPWE Executive Committee and minister of national defense; Comrade Berhanu Bayeh, member of the PMAC Standing Committee and the COPWE Executive Committee; Comrade Yusuf Ahmed, minister of transport and communications and member of the COPWE Central Committee; Comrade Dr Feleke Gedle-Giorgis, minister of foreign affairs and member of the COPWE Central Committee; Comrade Taye Tilahun, minister of interior; Comrade Girma Yilma, minister of information and national guidance and member of the COPWE Central Committee; Comrade Dr Geremew Debele, minister of agriculture; Comrade Hailu Shawl, minister of state farms; Comrade Yeho Lashet Girma, minister of coffee and tea development and COPWE Central Committee member; Comrade Mengistu Gemechu, COPWE Central Committee member and special aide to the comrade chairman; Comrade Girma Habte Gabriel, chief administrator and COPWE representative of the Sidamo administrative region; Comrade Ali Mussa, chief administrator and COPWE representative of the Gamu Gofa administrative region; Comrade Yosef Woulde Mikael, permanent secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Trade; Comrade Desta Mengiste, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of socialist Ethiopia to the Republic of Kenya; Comrade Brig Gen Seyoum Mekonnen, chief of intelligence in the Ministry of National Defense and member of the COPWE Central Committee; and Comrade Dr Amare Tekle, head of the Africa and Middle East Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Present on the Kenyan side were Mr Mwai Kabki, MP and vice president and minister for finance; Mr Charles Njonjo, MP and minister of constitutional and home affairs; Mr G.G. Kariuki, MP and minister of state; Mr K.N.K. Biwott, MP and minister of State; Mr James Osogo, MP and minister for economic planning and development; Mr E.T. Mwamunga, MP and minister for commerce; Dr R.J. Ouka, MP and minister for foreign affairs; Mr M.B. Mudavadi, MP and minister for water deverlopment; Mr E.W. Mwangale, MP and minister for tourism; Mr G.K. Mbijiwe, MP and minister for agriculture; Mr H.K. Kosgey, MP and minister for transport and communications; Mr J.B. Karugu, MP and attorney general; Mr. J.G. Kiereini, chief secretary, Office of the President; Gen J.K. Mulinge, chief of the general staff; Mr S. Nyachae, permanent secretary, Cabinet affairs; Mr H.M. Mule, permanent secretary, Vice President's Office and Ministry of Finance; Mr F.M. Njuguna, permanent secretary, provincial administration and internal security; Mr J. Muliro, permanent secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mr J. Kanyotu, director of intelligence; Mr A.L. Arap Ngeny, private secretary, comptroller of the state house; His Excellency F.K. Nganatha, ambassador in Addis Ababa; Mr L.P. Odero, chief of protocol; Dr E.I. Maluki, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mr D. Namu, Office of the President; and Mr Wamatu Njoroge, head of the presidential press unit.

During the discussions, Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam briefed the Kenyan leader and his delegation on the progress of and the measures taken to consolidate the Ethiopian revolution since the overthrow of the archaic feudal-bourgeois regime in 1974 and on the victories scored in the struggle of the broad masses of Ethiopia, at successive states of the revolution, against internal reactionaries and external enemies, led by international imperialism. He also acquainted his high Kenyan host and his delegation of the creation and purpose of the COPWE and the achievements of its historical first congress. He noted that the final objectives of the Ethiopian revolution were the creation, on the basis of Marxism-Leninism, of the necessary conditions for establishing in Ethiopia a society which would be free from exploitation and oppression and would ensure the prevalence of peace, freedom, equality and justice.

Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam also briefed his excellency the president, Mr Daniel T. Arap Moi, on the harmonious relationships, based on the principles of goodneighborly relations that presently exist between socialist Ethiopia and two of her other neighbors, the Democratic Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of Djibouti. Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam expressed his great satisfaction at the understanding achieved and agreements concluded as a result of the recent official friendly visits paid by his excellency to Saudan and His Excellency President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri to Ethiopia.

His excellency the president, Mr Daniel T. Arap Moi, thanked Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam for the briefing, hailed the Ethiopian people for the successful defense of the independence, sovereignty territorial integrity and unity of their country and deplored the aggressions committed against their country by the expansionist government of Somalia.

His excellency the president, Mr Daniel T. Arap Moi, briefed the Ethiopian side on the achievements made by the people of Kenya since independence in the economic, social cultural and political fields.

Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam expressed total support for the measures taken to accelerate development in all fields and hailed the victories scored so far by the Kenyan people in the economic, political and cultural fields under the wise guidance of his excellency the president, Mr Daniel T. Arap Moi.

The Ethiopian side expressed grief and condolences to the people and Government of Kenya at the recent cold-blooded murder of Kenyan officials by agents of the Mogadishu regime.

Conscious of the fact that the brotherly relations of the Republic of Kenya and socialist Ethiopia have been cemented by the shared experiences of the two peoples in their common struggle to maintain the territorial integrity and unity of their countries and to promote the welfare of their peoples, the two leaders expressed satisfaction at the existing solid economic, cultural, political and diplomatic relations between the two countries. The two leaders further expressed their determination to reinforce and expand these relations for mutual benefit.

Both leaders emphasized the need for their two countries to cooperate further and to coordinate their activities in the struggle against Somalian expansionism and the antiunity forces which have adopted hostile policies against the two countries.

Having thoroughly reviewed the situation in the region, the two heads of state reiterated their well-known stand that if durable peace, stability and security is to be achieved in the area, Somalia must fulfill the following minimum conditions:

Somalia must renounce publicly and unconditionally all claims to the territories of Ethiopia, Kenya and Djibouti and declare null and void all instruments asserting such claims.

Somalia must openly and solemnly declare its acceptance of the principles and decisions of the United Nations and OAU government interstate relations, including the principles of the inviolability of state frontiers and noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries.

Somalia must, in particular, withdraw its reservation on the decision on state frontiers made by the first OAU summit conference held in Cairo in 1964.

Somalia must solemnly declare that it will scrupulously respect international agreements as well as the principles of nonuse of force in the settlement of international disputes, and must pay prompt and adequate preparations for the war damages it inflicted on Ethiopia.

In this respect both sides call upon all states providing military assistance to Somalia, including the supply of weapons, on whatever scale, to stop doing so. Any such assistance, if continued, will provide a recipe for continued protracted conflicts in the Horn of Africa. The two leaders hailed the recommendations of the last meeting of the OAU Ethiopia-Somali good-offices committee held in Lagos, Federal Republic of Nigeria, in August 1980.

Both sides agreed that nonacceptance by Somalia of these conditions would mean the perpetuation of the existing tension and insecurity in the area. In this connection, the two leaders agreed to intensify their active collaboration to eliminate the root cause of tension and insecurity with a view to promoting peace, security, stability and cooperation in the region.

Having reviewed the situation in the Red Sea, Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean region, both sides affirmed the need for the establishment of a zone of peace in the area in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, the OAU and the nonaligned movement, with a view to fostering peace and stability in the region, safeguarding the interests and peaceful development of the countries of the region, promoting harmonious and mutually beneficial relations between them and protecting international commerce and navigation.

The two sides reviewed the current situation in Southern Africa and expressed solidarity with and total support for the legitimate struggle being waged by the peoples of Namibia and South Africa. While condemning imperialist and neocolonailist maneuvers regarding Namibia, they reaffirmed their well-known positions for the immediate and complete elimination of colonialism and racism in Southern Africa and their solidarity with and total support for the African liberation movements of the region.

In this context, they hailed the victory scored by the people of Zimbabwe against colonialism and racism and expressed their best wishes to the newly independent country. The two sides noted with satisfaction the positive role played by the OAU in bringing together independent African states in their struggle against imperialism, colonialism, racism and apartheid and for the socio-economic advancement of their peoples.

The expressed support for the efforts made by the OAU to harmonize relations among African states within the framework of the charter and all of the resolutions and decisions of the organization.

In connection with the situation in the Middle East, the two sides reiterated their full support for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 242. Both sides expressed the conviction that a settlement can be achieved only through collective effort and with the full participation of all parties concerned, including the PLO, the sole authentic and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The two sides expressed their deep concern over the armed conflict between Iraq and Iran which is detrimental to the interests of their peoples and to the cause of regional and international peace and security. The two sides urged a speedy settlement of the conflict by peaceful means. To this end, the two sides supported the efforts of the United Nations and the nonaligned movement aimed at a speedy settlement of the conflict on the basis of the principles of the United Nations and the nonaligned movement.

Both sides reaffirmed their unswerving committment to the promotion and consolidation of international peace and security and their desire to relentlessly struggle against the activities of forces aimed at undermining international detente and intensifying the arms race.

They stressed the need to further deepen the vitally important process of detente and extend it to all the regions of the world.

In this respect, both sides expressed the conviction that the process to relax international tension should apply to all areas of the world, including the African continent. Reaffirming their adherence to the idea of establishing nuclear-free zones in various areas of the world, the two sides declared their resolve to make Africa a nuclear-free zone.

Both sides also expressed concern over the steps being taken by some countries which are encouraging the proliferation of nuclear weapons and, in particular, called upon all countries to prevent the production of nuclear weapons by South Africa, since these acts constitute a threat to the welfare of the peoples of Africa and to international peace and security.

In stressing the imperative need for a just world order, both sides reaffirmed their faith in and continued commitment to the enduring principles of the United Nations, the OAU and the nonaligned movement and aggreed to coordinated their efforts towards the creation of a new international economic order. In this connection, both sides called upon all states to exert maximum effort to alleviate the energy crisis that has become a great impediment to the implementation of economic development plans, especially those of the non-oil-producing developing countries.

Both sides hailed the harmonious relations that exist between their two countries and the Democratic Republic of the Sudan and noted with satisfaction that the joint Ethiopian-Kenyan-Sudanese consultative ministerial committee is to be convened as soon as possible.

Both sides discussed at length issues pertaining to mutual deferse, security and border administration and agreed on all of them.

Both sides emphasized the need to further strengthen existing bilateral trade relations on the basis of the trade agreement and trade protocol concluded by the governments in Addis Ababa on 31 January 1979 and agreed that the existing protocol should be extended to 31 December 1981 through an appropriate exchange of letters. In this context, it was agreed that greater efforts should be made by both sides to expand the volume and composition of goods traded between the two countries on the basis of mutual advantage and reciprocity.

The two sides noted with satisfaction the progress made so far in the improvement of communications between the two countries, particularly in the fields of civil aviation, maritime links and postal and telecommunications services and facilities, and emphasized that improvements to transport and communications facilities will not only promote economic and trade development but also facilitate the achievement of the social, cultural and political integration of the two neighboring countries.

Considering the great scope for integrated regional development cooperation between the two states, both sides reaffirmed cooperation to the promotion of joint regional development programs. In this regard, both sides noted with satisfaction the progress that has been made in initiating development in the Omo and Lake Turkana areas and agreed that further joint efforts will be made to secure funds for the speedy implementation of the Addis Ababa-Nairobi Highway and the feeder roads to the Addis Ababa-Moyale Highway.

Both sides expressed the desirability of cooperation in manpower training programs by offering training places in each other's training institutions.

The Ethiopian and Kenyan sides expressed their satisfaction with the positive results of the discussions and agreed that the visit of the socialist Ethiopian delegation led by Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the PMAC and COPWE and commander in chief of the Revolutionary Army of Socialist Ethiopia, had helped to strengthen friendly ties and cooperation between the governments and peoples of Kenya and socialist Ethiopia.

Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam expressed his sincere appreciation to his colleague and brother, his excellency the president, Mr Daniel Arap Moi, and the brotherly people of Kenya for the warm, fraternal reception and generous hospitality accorded him and his party throughout his visit to the Republic of Kenya.

SOMALIA

RULING BODIES SUMMONED TO 'EXTRAORDINARY' MEETING

LD071552 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1400 GMT 7 Dec 80 EA

[Text] Having studied in detail the successive raids on various parts of the Somali Democratic Republic, which caused considerable harm to people, property and livestock; having taken into account the latest attacks launched on the Somali Democratic Republic by the Abyssinians and their backers; having taken into consideration the unjustified massacre, looting and pillage of innocent people in violation of all international codes of human behavior; and having taken into consideration the massacre and unjustified rounding up of innocent people, indubitably undertaken to lay the foundations of the ugly joint communique released recently in Nairobi following the meeting there of the Kenyan and Ethiopian heads of state, which is tantamount to a joint declaration of war on the Somali Democratic Republic and of the systematic liquidation of the Somali people they are colonizing, the president of the Somali Democratic Republic and the Supreme Revolutionary Council have called an extraordinary meeting of the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party Central Committee and the members of the National Assembly and of the government to commence at the People's Hall at 1600 to decide what action should be taken in the light of the dangerous situation threatening and confronting the Somali people.

IVORY COAST

PRESIDENT ADDRESSES NATION ON ANNIVERSARY

AB070800 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 6 Dec 80

[Address to the nation by Ivorian President Felix Houphouet-Boigny on the country's 20th independence anniversary--live]

[Excerpts] Fellow countrymen: Since you decided willingly and enthusiastically to give me another 5-year mandate to preside over the destiny of our country--which constitutes the best encouragement for me--it is my duty, on the occasion of our 20th anniversary which we are celebrating today, to examine with you our future expectations. How can we try to organize it when the world during the past 10 years has become a cemetery of received ideas, according to a great editorialist.

First of all, after rejoicing over the maturity shown by the majority of our people during the legislative and municipal elections which resulted in a significant renewal of the political personnel, I would like to call on everyone to forget the noise made during the electoral campaign and to forgive the few offences that were committed in the heat of the action and to think instead of the collective effort we will have to make in an overall economic situation which calls for close unity similar to the unity which enabled us to fight for the freedom to exist independently. There is a need for lucidity on the part of our leaders and cohesion among our people in order to face the difficult times we will have to pass through. We must unite in order to overcome perils and to purusue our march forward without confusion.

The reforms we have undertaken and which were first announced during the congress should not constitute mere roughcasting of a termite-infested house. The errors we have noticed are certainly due in part to the errors of appreciation which any country is likely to commit, but they are also mainly the result of deep defects which must be eradicated through a total change in our mentalities. These defects have a name: Lack of sense of responsibility and the spirit of initiative, an appetite for pleasure, the immoderate taste for keeping up appearances instead of adhering to true values, absenteeism and corruption. Some of these errors are due to deviations from our traditional African society, while others are due to the consequences of modern life, its temptations and the division of the family circles which it leads to. They affect all levels of the population in different measures.

I do not forget that our destiny is tied to what the Africa and the world of tomorrow will be. There too--but on another scale altogether of course--the brotherly advice which I have given you is applicable, because it is only with peace and unity, with rejection of waste, with respect for the most humble and destitute of nations that humanity will be able to avoid chaos and respond effectively to its age-old problems, but which the menace of overpopulation, the monstruous power of new weapons, the forseeable depletion of a number of raw materials and the encroaching desert make cruelly urgent and ominous.

It is appropriate to mention certain figures. The number of nuclear weapons actually available is estimated at 60,000, which corresponds to 4 tons of conventional explosives per human being. Ten trillion CFA francs will be spent for weaponry in 1980. Fifteen million persons, including 5 million children, will be killed by hunger.

As for the indebtedness of the Third World, it has already reached more than 70 trillion CFA francs.

One is dizzied by these figures, which point out the pathetic results of the efforts of the international community to realize the ideals which it set itself following the last world war. Here again, a profound alteration of attitudes must occur, primarily in the field of economic relations.

The developing countries have, for the most part, become aware of a certain number of errors of youth and have taken economy measures the necessity of which has not always been realized by the population, which are already severely disadvantaged. But these very real efforts are constantly threatened, if not obliterated, by the speculative actions which we constantly denounce.

Just recently, the meeting on cocoa showed us that though a few of our consumer friends--to whom I pay tribute--adopted an attitude of understanding of others, despite their own difficulties, others, notably the largest of our unfortunate world, refused the proposals--modest though they were--which might have resulted in a satisfactory consensus. This is very serious because this implies a fundamental ignorance of the human factors in the problem of peace.

To speak frankly, it is just as logical and desirable that the United States should keep itself in a position, by means of powerful and appropriate weaponry, to dissuade its great adversary from attempting the final adventure. But the past years have shown that communism, under its various masks, has not needed to undertake armed intervention, except as a last resort, in order to win entire countries by playing on the misery of their peoples.

Will the United States and its allies realize too late what we have been constantly repeating to them--that we are not asking for charity. There are, unfortunately, quite enough displaced persons, refugees, who exist only by virtue of alms. We who have the opportunity to work and to produce, we simply wish more justice in order to be able to obtain for all an acceptable standard of living, one which will generate social peace.

Will they finally understand that lesson of history which shows us that over the millennia, the majority of invasions, revolts, and uprisings were principally motivated by an unendurable disparity in the conditions of existence.

During the coming year, in Mexico, a meeting of heads of state will be held which will attempt, with a lighter apparatus than the big conferences, to examine in a concrete fashion the possibilities of arriving at a new world economic order. God willing, it will contribute to making the governments understand that the excuse of lack of direct action against speculation which is implied in the liberal system is no longer valid when it is a question of preserving liberties. May all those on whom the harmonious development of all the international community depends understand that it is necessary to know how to lose a little in order not to lose everything, because the unfortunate consequences of widespread poverty will not spare anyone.

Finally, if I consider the political aspect of the current situation, I can only once again note the failure of solutions involving force. The only progress that has been recorded in the fields of concern to us was achieved through dialogue. Even if this progress was modest, it is an encouragement which must be pursued obstinately, along the same path.

Ivorian brothers and sisters, you may perhaps find that on this day of festivities my words are somewhat somber. I have never lied to you. I will not begin to do so now after more than 30 years of public life. To measure a danger is the best way of confronting it. Knowing that the world, and consequently we ourselves, are passing through a delicate phase should encourage us more than ever to unity and to work. Our assets are real and numerous. We have our land, our brains and our arms, our youth, we have loyal friends. If we do not hide these assets by ill-advised behaviour and waste, if we preserve our human and material capital, if we enrich it with clear and effective energy, above all if the actions of each one of us are put at the disposal of the whole with an immense graditude from the bottom of the heart for the fate which caused us to be born in a peaceful country largly favored by nature, I can state with a deep conviction that we will emerge ennobled and victorious from our struggle.

Long live the Ivory Coast, united, strong and prosperous!

PRESIDENTIAL ESCORT CAR HIT BY 'BOMB' 7 DEC

PA071819 Paris AFP in English 1753 GMT 7 Dec 80

[Text] Abidjan, Ivory Coast, Dec 7 (AFP)--A spectator threw a home-made bomb against a security vehicle escorting President Felix Houphouet-Boigny to his home, the Ivory Coast News Agency reported today. The attack in the Abidjan suburb of Marcory came at the end of a parade marking the 20th anniversary of independence in Ivory Coast. The agency, which described the event as a little incident, said that the author of this unthinkable act, whom it said was unbalanced, had been arrested and then released. It did not seem that the bomb was particularly directed against the head of state, observers said. Witnesses to the incident saw flames near one of the security vehicles when the bomb hit the ground.

President's Remarks

AB080858 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 0800 GMT 8 Dec 80

[Excerpt] Those who, on the occasion of national day, went to Houphouet-Boigny stadium yesterday afternoon to watch the traditional dancers could see the head of state himself dance with the dancing groups for some time. Later on President Houphouet-Boigny explained his move saying that he is like the capitaine [sea pike], the big fish which is so powerful when inside the water but which becomes powerless when outside the water. The meaning of this sentence is, he said: When I am with the people, I am powerful and nothing can happen to me. The head of state was alluding to the incident which took place yesterday morning on Giscard d'Estaing Boulevard, at the end of the parade, a little before noon. The presidential party was about the leave the place when a home-made device was thrown from the crowd and fell not far in front of security agents and the presidential car. There was no explosion but there were some flames, which were put out immediately. The guilty one was arrested but released some time later.

UPPER VOLTA

MILITARY COMMITTEE REPLACES LOCAL ADMINISTRATIONS

AB070956 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 5 Dec 80

[Text] The chairman of the Military Committee of Redress for National Progress decrees:

Article 1. The special delegations appointed by Decree No 76336-YDGI of 10 September 1967 and by Decree No 79028-YDGIVGT of 16 January 1979 to be in charge of the administration of the Upper Volta communes have been dissolved.

Article 2. The dissolved special delegations will be replaced in each commune by a committee headed by the subprefect and comprising directors and heads of service.

Article 3. The present decree, which takes effect as of 3 December 1980, will be recorded, published and communicated wherever necessary.

In addition the chairman of the Military Committee of Redress for National Progress decrees:

Article 1. The special delegations appointed by Decree No 79027-YDGIVGT of 12 January 1979 to be in charge of the administration of Upper Volta departments have been dissolved.

Article 2. The dissolved special delegations will be replaced in each department by a committee presided over by the prefect and comprising the directors and heads of service of the department.

Article 3. This present decree, which takes effect as of 3 December 1980, will be recorded, published and communicated wherever necessary.